



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Protesters pound the door of the police department in Kenosha in the US state of Wisconsin on Sunday; (inset) Jacob Blake | AP



ANOTHER POLICE SHOOTING OF BLACK MAN ROCKS U.S.

Violent protests erupted in Wisconsin on Sunday night after police shot an unarmed black man in the back several times

THE VICTIM IS BATTLING FOR LIFE

The police said the shooting happened when they were responding to a "domestic incident" on Sunday evening in Kenosha. A footage showed three officers pointing their guns at the man, identified as Jacob Blake, as he walked around the front of a car. He was shot when he opened the driver's door and leaned in. He was hospitalised in a serious condition

MULTIPLE VEHICLES SET ON FIRE

Protesters took out a march to the Kenosha police station on Sunday night. There, they faced off with officers in riot gear. Multiple vehicles, including a truck, were set ablaze. The incident comes three months after the police killing of African-American George Floyd triggered worldwide protests | P11

29-yr-old

JACOB BLAKE WAS SHOT IN FRONT OF HIS THREE CHILDREN

Sonia to continue as Congress chief, party to find new boss in 6 months

Veterans who expressed dissent sidelined at CWC meet; majority sought a Gandhi at the helm

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

THE much-hyped dissent by senior leaders turned out to be a whimper on Monday, with the Congress Working Committee requesting Sonia Gandhi to continue leading the party until a new leader is elected.

"The CWC makes it clear that no one will be or can be permitted to undermine or weaken the party and its leadership at this juncture," said the CWC resolution, sending a strong message to dissenters.

The seven-hour CWC meeting saw the veterans, who wrote to Sonia seeking "collective leadership", being cornered with a majority of the members condemning their move and some demanding action against them.

Sources said that Rahul Gandhi was unsparing in his speech, saying these leaders' move will benefit only the BJP. Upset by the insinuation, senior party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad threatened to quit from all party posts.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra, then, took a jibe at Azad that what he said in the meeting was contra-



FLUTTER OVER BJP LINK

After reports that Rahul accused the leaders who wrote the dissenting letter of being in cahoots with the BJP, some party veterans expressed anguish. The Congress quickly clarified he has not uttered a word of this nature

ry to the letter's content.

Rajya Sabha member Kapil Sibal, too, expressed his anguish, but later clarified he "was informed by Rahul personally that he never said what was attributed to him".

After the meeting, a few veterans met at Azad's residence to discuss the future course.

The meeting started with the party's organisations in-charge K C Venugopal reading out Sonia's statement, asking the CWC "to begin deliberations of putting in place a process of

transition to relieve me from my duties". This made her two confidantes, former PM Manmohan Singh and A K Antony, requesting her to continue leading the party, while calling the letter by party colleagues as "unfortunate and cruel".

A majority of CWC members said that Sonia should continue to lead the party till Rahul takes over. Congress CMs and CWC members were in unison that only a Gandhi can keep the party together.

However, sources said Rahul is still reluctant to take the hot seat. An AICC session is likely to be called within six months to elect the next leader.

Four of the letter's signatories, who are part of the CWC, clarified that the letter was to bring focus on the organisation, restricting and settling leadership issues, and never to question Sonia's leadership. Azad and Anand Sharma said they have not breached party discipline, while Ambika Soni sought action against dissenters.

In her concluding remarks, Sonia said she was hurt by the contents of the letter, but doesn't hold any ill-will against party colleagues. P9

Not in race for AICC president, says Kharge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

VETERAN Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday denied reports of him being in the race for All-India Congress Committee president.

After the Congress Working Committee meeting in New Delhi, Kharge said he conveyed at the meeting that all leaders unanimously supported Sonia Gandhi to continue as AICC chief or convince Rahul Gandhi to take charge of the post. "It is mere speculation," he said, on him being in the race for the party chief's post.

He said that all concerns, including that of leaders who sought a change in leadership, were addressed, but the priority was discussing the party's future action over issues concerning the economy, unemployment and Chinese incursion. P7



If I retract a statement before this court that I otherwise believe to be true offer an insincere apology, that in my eyes would amount to the contempt of my conscience and of an institution I hold in highest esteem

Prashant Bhushan

Bhushan rules out apology; verdict today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A day before the Supreme Court's scheduled hearing on the quantum of sentence for his tweets, activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan on Monday reiterated that he won't apologise for his comments.

In a fresh statement filed in the apex court, Bhushan said he believes his comments against the judiciary were right. Therefore, an apology would be insincere and amount to contempt of his conscience, he said.

"I expressed myself in good faith, not to malign the Supreme Court or any particular

Chief Justice, but to offer constructive criticism, so that the court can arrest any drift away from its long-standing role as a guardian of the Constitution and custodian of people's rights," he said.

Bhushan added his tweets represented this bona-fide belief. "Public expression of these beliefs was in line with my higher obligations as a citizen and a loyal officer of this court. Therefore, an apology for expression of these beliefs, conditional or unconditional, would be insincere." He noted an apology cannot be a mere incantation and any apology has to, as the court has itself put it, be sincerely made.

EXPRESS READ

K'taka to be first state to implement NEP

Bengaluru: Karnataka is slated to emerge as the first state in the country to implement the new National Education Policy (NEP), Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said on Monday | P3

US researchers testing nasal vaccine for Covid

Bengaluru: Researchers from Washington University School of Medicine tell TNIE that they are trying out a Covid vaccine that can be delivered nasally, which could undergo human trials in coming months | P4

Session in Soudha, doors to be kept open

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE State Government on Monday decided to hold the legislature session from September 21 for 10 days at the Assembly Hall of the Vidhana Soudha by taking adequate precautionary measures and making changes in the seating arrangements.

Doors and windows of the Assembly Hall will be kept open during the session, while glass shields will be placed between chairs. All members have to wear a face mask and a face shield.

Earlier, the idea of conducting the session outside the Vidhana Soudha was considered in view of Covid-19.

On Monday, Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J C Madhuswamy and Chief Secretary T M Vijaya Bhaskar inspected the Assembly Hall.

Speaking to TNIE, Madhuswamy said they decided to conduct the session at the Vidhana Soudha as before. "But there will be many internal changes. We will put transparent fibre sheets between the seats of members," he said. P7

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- Innovative course on Tinkering and Engineering Exploration
- Training Initiatives in the form of V-ACT which takes care of Values, Aptitude, Career Guidance and Technical Training of students.
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cell and Incubation Facilities including NAIN funding under Govt of Karnataka
- SAEINDIA & ISIE SJEC Collegiate Clubs that work on building ATV & Solar Car
- On-campus AC/Non-AC Hostels for Boys & Girls



FIRST RANK in Civil Engg and record breaking tally of 13 GOLD MEDALS at VTU Level, 2018-19



Championship at International Robowars Event IIT Bombay, 2019



GOLD MEDALIST Asian Classic Powerlifting Championship at Kazakhstan, 2019



Team SJEC Racing secured Overall All India 5th Rank at ATVC 2020, Gujarat

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Tough times: KSRTC to launch app-based taxis

To run courier service too; ISRO to help with technology; discussions on

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

MOVE over, Ola/Uber, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation is planning to start app-based taxis and courier services across the state. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is expected to help with technology. However, discussions are still in the preliminary stage.

This new venture is likely to generate additional funds for the transport department, which has been in the red due to the lockdown.

The department is planning to tie up with ISRO for technology-related support for many services, and has even appointed a co-ordinator between the government and ISRO scientists. "Mobile app-based taxi service is only one of the services," sources said.

The department has completed one round of discussions, and officials are expected to meet senior ISRO representatives in the next few days.

The department is also planning to launch 'Namma Courier' with the aid of KSRTC, NEWRTC and

NWRTC. Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa is due to launch it soon, and the government is looking at an annual revenue of Rs 100 crore.

Tenders have been called and are in the final stage, and bidders will be given space in bus stands to set up the service. "We have KSRTC reservation franchises in many places. Customers can hand over packages at these counters. From here, they will reach the nearest bus stand, and in-house infrastructure of bus network will be used. At the destination, agency staff will pick up and deliver the packages to customers," said sources.

The lockdown due to the pandemic had driven up losses of the State-owned corporation, which is paying salaries with great difficulty.

Asked why Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) are entering taxi and courier service, Transport Minister Laxman Savadi said RTCs may not make profits, but salaries and other expenses need to be paid. "Additional revenue from these services can help RTCs," he stated.



While trial runs have mostly been held after midnight, they can be held in the day now due to the closure of service | EXPRESS

Yelachenahalli Metro trial run likely to begin from Thursday

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE first trial run of trains for a stretch of the 72.1-km Phase-II of Namma Metro is likely from Thursday. This 6.29 km stretch from Yelachenahalli to Anjanapura (Reach-4B line) is slated for a November 1 launch.

While trial runs have mostly been held after midnight due to train operations, they can be held in the day now due to the closure of service.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) Managing Director Ajay Seth told

The New Indian Express, "We are looking at beginning the trials this week from the Yelachenahalli end. Thursday (August 27) is very likely subject to our internal inspection. Trial runs will be held for a month before approaching the Commissioner for Metro Rail Safety for his inspection. That may be possible in October."

The five elevated stations of Konanakunte Cross (earlier Anjanapura Cross Road), Doddakallasandra, Vajrahalli, Thalaghattapura and Anjanapura figure along this line.

The initial runs will only be between two stations, he added.

M S Channappagoudar, General Manager, Land Acquisitions, BMRL, said 71,890 square metres of land was acquired for the stretch and a total compensation of Rs 364.52 crore was paid to those whose lands were acquired.

The stretch has missed a few deadlines in the past with August 15 announced as the launch date. The Covid-19 pandemic has pushed the launch date to November 1 now.

'WE ARE READY TO RUN METRO ANYTIME'

The board meeting of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation was held on Monday. According to a source, "The possibility of opening up Metro operations for the public was discussed during the meeting. No decision has been finalized yet. We are in a state of complete readiness to run trains whenever the Centre wants us to do so." Asked if any proposal has to be sent by BMRL to the Centre, the source said it was not required as the decision will be taken pan-India. ENS

ORR LINE TO BE DISCUSSED AT MINISTERIAL MEET

An inter-ministerial consultation meet will be held by the Centre in connection with the Outer Ring Road line, said BMRL MD Ajay Seth. The line between KR Puram and Silk Board was approved by the State on January 29, 2019, but still awaits central clearance. "The meet will get views of other ministries before the proposal is placed before the Public Investment Board," he said. The Rs 5,999.4 crore project running 19.5 km will have 13 stations. ENS

BAPTISM BY TWITTER

Twitter gives Sudha Murty 'jumbo' tribute: TNIE poll

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

NEWS of the birth of a female elephant calf at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBBP) on August 19 came as a breath of fresh air amid the ongoing pandemic. Soon after, The New Indian Express took to Twitter, asking netizens to suggest names for the little pachyderm.

Numerous options poured in, with Infosys Foundation chair-



After TNIE posted on Twitter, netizens came up with numerous suggestions, most popular being 'Sudha' | EXPRESS

person Sudha Murty, who is known for her love for animals, also pitching in. Bharati, Naina, Gowri, Sushma (as a tribute to late External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj), Cauvery and Khushi were some of the monikers Twitter-users came up with, but interestingly, it was 'Sudha' that was the most popular.

Responding to this happy news, Murty told TNIE that ultimately, it is the zoo's decision.

BBBP Executive Director Vanashri Vipin Singh said that so far, no decision has been taken on what to name the calf. "We will decide at an appropriate

"We will decide at an appropriate time. At present, the mother and calf are doing fine"
Vanashri Vipin Singh, BBBP executive director

time. At present, the mother and calf are doing fine," she added.

Talking about Murty's contribution to wildlife conservation, the Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) had responded to TNIE's post, saying, "Many suggested naming the calf Sudha. ZAK, with gratitude, remembers the help Sudha Murty extended in developing Bannerghatta Zoo and Binkadakatti Zoo in Gadag."



Dogs have a field day at Cubbon Park, which was closed to traffic again on Monday after citizen groups objected | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

25th August: Today is special to Mars. Why? Well, all we know is that's what the ancient astrologers said. What's more, the first hour after dawn is also Martian, and hence it's a very good time for launching all new enterprises which require a great deal of energy and vigour. There's one condition: you have to be an early riser!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The major concern is that you might be confused about a domestic matter. If that does seem to be the case, you must make strenuous efforts to separate fact from fantasy. It's not that one's better than the other, but that you need to know when your imagination is running away with you.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)

All seems to be well at home. However, I suspect that many of you might be surprised to hear that in view of partners' often strop behaviour! What the stars are really saying is that even if you take a bit of abating in the short run, the consequences this year and next will be your own best interests.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

In some strange way the Moon is selecting you as a sort of cosmic revolutionary. What this means in practice is unclear, although I suspect that this is an ideal day to flex your emotional muscles and exercise your authority over colleagues and associates.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The fact that the Sun is still forming a series of intriguing relationships with other planets could mean that you are engaged by a yearning that can never be satisfied. Realise that in some senses your dreams are just that - dreams! But if someone close to you should share them, then you're a lucky person indeed!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)

Things are moving fast behind the scenes - very fast! In view of the fact that there's a certain restless influence in your solar chart today, you would do well to talk to everybody about everything as much as possible. That way, you'll steer clear of looming misunderstandings.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

There is no need to feel sat upon, hemmed in or exploited. Now that the Moon is influencing the very summit of your chart, you should make a point of being self-interested for a change. If you expect a little respect, then you'll almost certainly get it.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

In some manner which is not easy to understand, achievements in the big wide world will be balanced by an increasing sense of private uncertainty. One option is to stand back and let fate take its course - and to step into action when the time is right.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

I have a very strong feeling that a number of ambitions are about to work out as you always hoped they would, mainly because a series of separate planetary cycles is about to coincide. You might still be surprised by the change in a partner's opinions, though.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

There doesn't seem to be anything to be gained from going it alone. Indeed, I'd say that it was almost essential to team up with other people, even if that does mean letting them take the lead and set the pace. Your emotions may be a little uncertain today, but you'll settle down later on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

You are communicating your message fairly well - but there's still room for improvement. Do yourself a favour and tune into all romantic possibilities, recognising that you can be as romantic about places, or even memories, as about people. Wallow in nostalgia and keep the minimum work necessary to keep afloat!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You should spare as much time as you need to enjoy yourself and taste the delights of love. This is not a matter of being slack or self-indulgent, but of recharging your emotional batteries. Other people should recognise it as such - and give you the benefit of the doubt.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)

Home and family affairs should take a relatively high priority, partly because someone you live with is waiting for you to take the lead. There doesn't seem to be anything terribly urgent, at least not as far as your solar chart is concerned, yet you will use your time wisely if you settle outstanding tasks.

THE PHANTOM



HI AND LOIS



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3	5			4		9
2	6		1		7	5
4			7			2 3
6		8		1		
	1					8
			6	7		2
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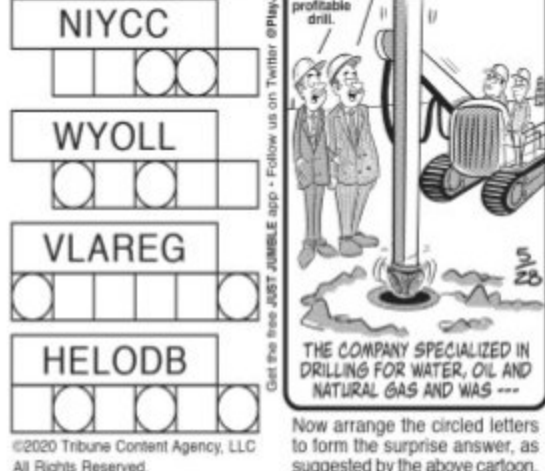
EASY

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

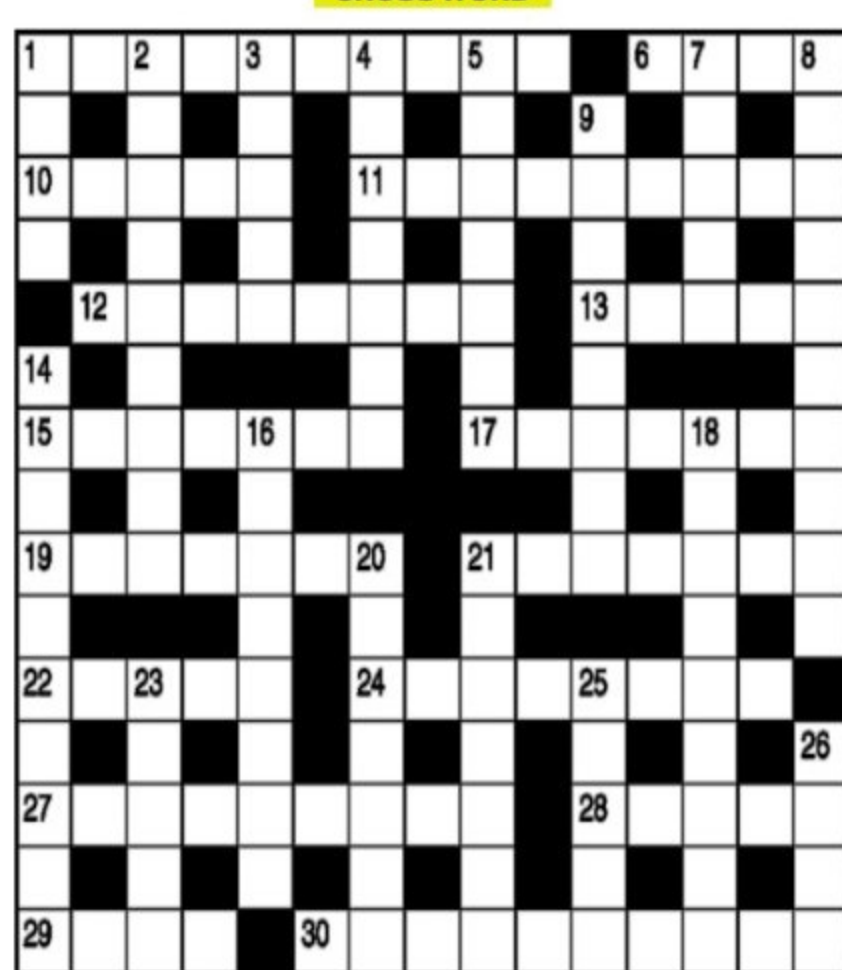
JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answers tomorrow
Yesterday's Jumbles: ABIDE FOCUS BEAGLE AGENDA
Answer: When the kids got too close to the rim of the Grand Canyon, their parents were - ON EDGE

CROSS WORD



DOWN

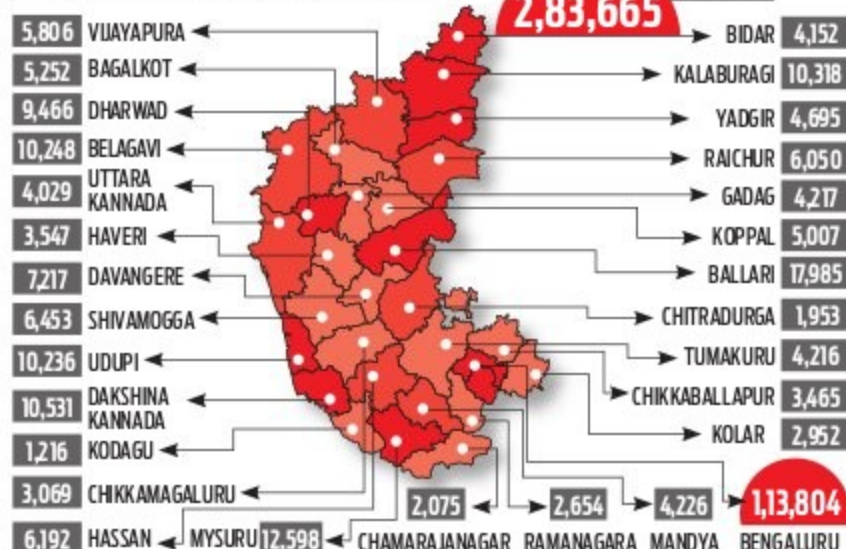
- Learning Heather goes out to work for a living (4)
- Disclosures in open court or in camera (9)
- Off-peak call (5)
- Cutting a jacket for riding (7)
- Without any breaks? That's no French way to work (7)
- Still producing cheerful songs (5)
- Those who claim to be teachers? (10)
- Censorious to a dangerous degree? (8)
- Details put as specified in the agreement (10)
- A hot line arranged for the opera (8)
- Charged with putting under test, perhaps (9)
- A cider's dress in a cocktail (7)
- Low Serb might be seen in an alley (7)
- Mob disperses after sailor produces weapon (1-4)
- Clean down (5)
- Hasn't she the heart to marry? (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Brigade, 5 Moses, 8 Precident, 9 Abe, 10 Dies, 12 Strike up, 14 Ration, 15 Bazaar, 17 Pomander, 18 Nero, 21 Ego, 22 On the mend, 24 Spent, 25 Rooster.

Down: 1 Biped, 2 Ire, 3 Abet, 4 Events, 5 Mythical, 6 Stage name, 7 Sleeper, 11 Extempore, 13 Point out, 14 Repress, 16 Debtor, 19 Order, 20 Nemo, 23 Elf.

QuoteExpress **DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK; DO WHAT IT DOES. KEEP GOING**
 ▶ SHIRLEY HODGSON



Kalaburgi: SP Simi Mariam George on Monday said that 31 police personnel in the district have come forward to donate plasma. The SP said, "Around 140 police personnel and staff from the department were infected with Covid-19 and 94 of them have recovered. Efforts were on to motivate more personnel to donate plasma. As and when required, the 31 police personnel who have agreed to volunteer, will donate plasma," she said. **ENS**

SI, scribe arrested for kidnapping, extortion

ENS @ Bengaluru

A police sub-inspector and a journalist were arrested on charges of kidnapping and stealing Rs 26.50 lakh from two people, who work for a Tumakuru businessman.

Jeevan Kumar (31), an SI at SJ Park police station, and Jnanaprakash (44), a reporter with Suddi Saramale newspaper, are the arrested. Jeevan is married to Jnanaprakash's niece.

The police said Mohan, a dealer in agri products in Gubbi, had sent his driver Shivakumaraswamy and another person to collect cash from

Bharath, who runs a distribution centre at Chickpet. On August 19, they collected Rs 26.50 lakh from Bharath, and Mohan wanted them to wait as another payment was pending.

"When they were waiting in their car near the Chickpet Metro Station, three men, claiming to be policemen, kidnapped them. The accused took them to the Unity Buildings parking lot, where people from another car snatched the cash bag," the police said. Shivakumaraswamy filed a complaint two days later. "We're searching for the others," said DCP (West) Sanjeev Patil.



TEST BEFORE THE EXAM

Aspirants queue up to be screened before their KPSC prelims examination in Mysuru on Monday | UDAYSHANKAR S

Tantric guru's Twitter threats put Railways on alert

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

WHILE assumed to be a hoax threat, a Twitter user's posts has Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) officers on alert mode.

The individual, from New Delhi, whose Twitter bio reads 'tantric from Ernakulam in Kerala', cautioned the Bengaluru Divisional Railway manager on Monday to ensure security arrangements are in place at three key railway stations and all Metro stations in the city, ahead of his/her visit

next week. The tweet, posted at 1.55 pm by @GuruKerala, was a response to a tweet by DRM A K Verma on the efficacy of goods trains.

Identifying himself as Rameshwar Sripada, CEO and founder of KVC, Kakinada, the individual tweeted, "Will visit Bengaluru, Yesvanthapur and Bengaluru Cantt Railway stations and Bengaluru Metro stations within a week. Make proper security arrangements (sic)." The worrying part, however, was what this individual, whose profile picture is an image of revolutionary Bhagat

Singh, posted about 90 minutes before addressing Verma. "I can also blast flights in India with the help of ISIS." Another tweet to his followers read, "I can burn any train in India."

Taking precautions, the DRM asked the RPF to look into it, and the latter has handed over the matter to the GRP. A railway source said, "Both the state police and the Intelligence Department are tracking this individual. It appears to be the work of a mentally-disturbed person."

Another source said, "It is most likely a hoax. No one who really plans to carry out an attack will announce it openly. But we are not taking it lightly and are first trying to establish the identity and location of the individual."

E Vijaya, Deputy General Manager and Chief Public Relations Officer, South Western Railway (SWR), said security across railway stations in Bengaluru has been enhanced. "Security was already tight across stations as many are isolated in the absence of regular train operations since March 22. We are beefing it up now after the tweets."

Elaborating on security measures, Vijaya said access control at stations has been tightened, CCTV monitoring strengthened, baggage is being scanned, and screening of passengers with metal detectors, among others, are in place.

Security was already tight across stations as many are isolated in the absence of regular train operations since March 22. We are beefing it up now after the tweets

E Vijaya, Deputy General Manager and Chief Public Relations Officer, SWR

As a sign of new hope, mortality rate in Bengaluru due to Covid-19 is seen dipping gradually. There were only five deaths reported last Sunday, compared to around 75 deaths on a single day in July.

CALL OF DUTY

Covid keeps Siddu far from Badami?

It's been 82 days since the Opposition leader last visited constituency

MAHESH M GOUDAR @Bagalkot:

BADAMI could well set up a cry, "Siddaramaiah, yellidi-yappa?" While elected representatives are leading from the front in many constituencies, initiating measures to contain Covid-19 and visiting flood-hit areas, Opposition leader Siddaramaiah has kept his social distance from Badami, which he represents in the Legislative Assembly.

It's been 82 days since Siddaramaiah last visited his constituency to hear the grievances of the people.

Instead, he has limited himself to phone calls, even during a surge in novel coronavirus cases and floods, which receded recently.

Siddaramaiah reportedly collected information over phone about the prevailing situation and directed officials to take necessary measures.

According to data provided by the Badami taluk administration, "At present, nearly 600 Covid cases have been re-

ported across Badami, with a majority of them in rural areas, and 80 per cent of the infected being cured. Among the 66 fatalities in the district, 20 per cent are from Badami taluk alone."

Last visit in June

Siddaramaiah last paid a two-day visit to Badami in the first week of June.

When contacted, a staffer in his office claimed that since Siddaramaiah was discharged from hospital after being treated for Covid-19, he is under home quarantine for two weeks. He will be visiting Badami after completing the isolation period.

Siddaramaiah had tested positive on August 4, and was admitted to Manipal Hospitals in Bengaluru. After 10 days of treatment and testing negative, he was discharged on August 13.

Since then, he has been in home quarantine and is yet to complete the mandatory 14 days of isolation after discharge.



CRIME PATROL

DJ Halli violence: Two more arrested

Bengaluru: The East Division police on Sunday arrested two more in connection with the DJ Halli violence, based on the information given by the suspects arrested so far. "The duo revealed more names of the accused involved in the violence and that some of them are hiding in Andhra Pradesh," the police added. On Monday, police filed four more FIRs bringing the total number of reports filed at DJ Halli and KG Halli police stations to 72.

Mechanic found murdered

Bengaluru: A 29-year-old bike mechanic was murdered by miscreants in Konanakunte police station limits on Monday. The deceased, Pradeep, was a resident of Hoskote. The murder came to light when a passerby noticed his body on a vacant site at an isolated place in Kothanur Dinne and alerted the police. "Preliminary probe reveals that he had friends there and had gone to meet someone on Sunday night. The assailants attacked him with lethal weapons and smashed his head with a boulder. We suspect the role of his friends," police said.

Suspects held in realtor attack case

Bengaluru: KR Puram police on Sunday arrested the two men who had attacked a real estate agent recently. They tried to shoot and kill Babu alias Auto Babu on Saturday. The accused are Sohail Pasha (23) and Shoaib (19). An officer said, "We have seized a car, country-made pistol and machete used in the crime. They had not covered their faces which helped us identify them using CCTV footage." Apparently, Babu had a tiff with the two over a chaat stall they ran in front of his office blocking it, which was the motive behind the attack.

Baby can eat now, thanks to surgery

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

A team of doctors at a private hospital performed a complex surgery to treat a 10-month-old boy from Assam, suffering from a rare congenital defect known as 'Laryngeal cleft condition' where food ingested through the mouth goes into the windpipe, instead of the food pipe. He also suffered from repeated pneumonia, low weight and malnourishment.

This condition is rare and present in 1 in 10,000 or 20,000 live births, with higher occurrence in males, and accounts for 0.3% to 0.5% of all congenital anomalies of the larynx.

The child was unable to consume anything orally and was managed through nasogastric or orogastric tube (NGT) feeding for months, where a tube is inserted through the nose or mouth, past the throat, and into the stomach.

"As food was going into the windpipe, he would choke and cough continuously. There is a curtain in the upper part of the voice box, at the back of the throat, that creates a partition between the windpipe and food pipe. Due to the cleft, he would swallow food into the windpipe," said Dr Nischal R Pandya, consultant, Paediatric Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery. He was diagnosed at the age of two months in his hometown.

Doctors in Bengaluru carried out a two-hour surgery. "We did an endoscopic laryngeal cleft repair, for Type 1 laryngeal cleft. ENT surgeons helped set up the field to feed the voice box area. As the child was small, the risk of infection, bleeding and injury to other structures in the throat were high," Dr Pandya added.

Post surgery, the baby was kept under observation for 12 days.



IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C. AT NELAMANGALA
C.Misc. No. 167/2020
Petitioner: Someshwar N. S/o. Nanjappa, Aged about 60 years, R/o. Hovenahalli Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
Respondent: The Registrar, (Registrar of Birth and Deaths), Nelamangala Taluk, Nelamangala.
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
Whereas the petitioner above named has presented petition to this Hon'ble court under Section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act, 1969 for order direct the respondent authority to get enter the date of petitioner's mother by name Nanjamma W/o. Nanjappa was died on 20-06-1993 at Hovenahalli Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. The Hon'ble court has fixed on 10-09-2020 for hearing of the petition and that if any person's desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly instructed at 11 AM. Failing which the said application will be heard & determined ex parte.
Given under my hand the seal of the court on this 17-08-2020
By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer Court of the Civil Judge (Jr. Division) & J.M.F.C. Court, Nelamangala
Advocate for Petitioner: Sri REVANNA, Advocate, Nelamangala

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C. AT NELAMANGALA
C.Misc. No. 190/2020
Petitioner: Doddanna W/o. Durgappa, Aged about 86 years, R/o. Kengal, Gollabrahli Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
Respondent: The Registrar, (Registrar of Birth and Deaths), Nelamangala Taluk, Nelamangala.
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
Whereas the petitioner above named has presented petition to this Hon'ble court under Section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act, 1969 for order direct the respondent authority to get enter the date of petitioner's husband by name Durgappa @Doddanna W/o. Kengabai Nanjappa was died on 24-07-2005 at Kengal, Gollabrahli Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. The Hon'ble court has fixed on 14-09-2020 for hearing of the petition and that if any person's desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly instructed at 11 AM. Failing which the said application will be heard & determined ex parte.
Given under my hand the seal of the court on this 17-08-2020
By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer Court of the Civil Judge (Jr. Division) & J.M.F.C. Court, Nelamangala
Advocate for Petitioner: Sri REVANNA, Advocate, Nelamangala

E-AUCTION NOTICE
FOR SALE OF ASSET OF LOTUS SHOPPING CENTRES PVT. LTD. (IN LIQUIDATION), Under IBC, 2016
Sale of Asset(s) and Properties owned by Lotus Shopping Centres Pvt. Ltd. (In Liquidation) forming part of the Liquidation Estate formed by the Liquidator, appointed by the Hon'ble NCLT, (Bengaluru) dated 18 June, 2020.

Assets Lot	Date and Time of Auction	Reserve Price	Incremental Amount	EMD Amount & Submission deadline
Lotus Shopping Mall - Kulshekar, Mangalore, Karnataka.	09 September 2020 from 03:00 PM to 05:00 PM (with unlimited extension of 5 mins)	INR 198.22 crore	INR 50 Lakhs	INR 20 Crore (refer asset sale process memorandum)

Please refer Terms & Conditions of E-auction and submission of Expression of Interest (Eoi), provided under Eoi process document and the Asset Sale Process Memorandum on the website of the corporate debtor <http://lotusshoppingcentres.in>. Alternatively details will also be made available on <https://ncltauction.auctiontngier.net> - E-Auction website.
You may write to me at LQ.Lotus@in.gt.com for any further details or clarification in this regard.
Sanjay Kumar Mishra (IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P01047/2017-2018/11730) Liquidator of Lotus Shopping Centres Private Limited (In Liquidation) Registered address: Dreams Complex, 4C-1605, LBS Marg, Bhandup West, Mumbai-400 078, Email: ipsanjaymishra@rediffmail.com
Date: 25 August, 2020 Place: Mumbai

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
M.S. Building, Bengaluru.
NO: RD 15 GRC 2020 Dated: 16-05-2020
NOTIFICATION
It has come to the notice of the Government, that the financial establishments viz., Lakshmi Credit Co-operative Society Limited, Davanagere is involved in the fraudulent transactions and failed to return deposits to their depositors. Hence, the Government has decided to initiate action as per the provisions specified under the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005).
It was reported that properties belonging to the said financial entities may have spread over in various districts and depositors are scattered throughout the State of Karnataka and possibly in other States also. In order to avoid duplication of efforts, necessity has arisen to authorize Competent Authority to call for claims from all the depositors of Lakshmi Credit Co-operative Society Limited, Davanagere.
Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 5(1) of The Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act. 30 of 2005), the Government of Karnataka, hereby appoint Assistant Commissioner, Davanagere Sub-Division, Davanagere as the 'Competent Authority' in respect of Lakshmi Credit Co-operative Society Limited, Davanagere with immediate effect.
By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/- (R. Yadukumar)
Under Secretary to Government (I/c) Revenue Department (Special Cell)
Telephone No: 080-22032691
E-mail: usspccell-rev@karnataka.gov.in
DIPR/DOA/Advtor/968/2020-21

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Dr. Mohamed Irfanulla Shariff, Aged about 32 years, S/o. Mr. Mohamed Saifulla Shariff, presently R/o. #20, Ex-Servicemen Colony, R.T.Nagar Post, Bangalore 560032. Both the names "MOHAMMED IRFANULLA" and "MOHAMED IRFANULLA SHARIFF" belongs to me only and presently I am known as Dr. Mohamed Irfanulla Shariff only. Vide affidavit dated 21.08.2020. Sworn before Advocate and Notary C.V.Earappa, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, VISHAL KUMAR H PUROHIT, S/o. Hiralal, R/o. No. 12, New No. 6, T.S. Lane, Cottonpet Cross, Chickpet, Bengaluru, had filed a suit for rectification of my father name as "HIRALAL" instead of "HARI SINGH" before the City Civil Judge (CCH-13) at Bengaluru in O.S. 162/2019 and the Hon'ble court decree the suit rectifying my father name as "HIRALAL" vide judgment dated 21st day, January 2020 and as such hereafter my father name should be called as "HIRALAL".

CHANGE OF NAME
I, AISHWARYA MANOJ PAI, D/o. Late Manoj Vasudev Pai, W/o Shri Niddodi Sreekanth Nayak, aged 26 years, resident of Flat No. 4, Magnum Residency, 6th Main, 5th Cross, RMS Layout, Sanjaynagar, RMV 2nd Stage PO, Bangalore-560094, Karnataka, have changed my name from AISHWARYA MANOJ PAI and AISHWARYA N. PAI to NIDDODI AISHWARYA NAYAK. All the names and variations mentioned above pertains to one and same person i.e. NIDDODI AISHWARYA NAYAK (New Name) sworn vide Affidavit No. 330 dated 24-Aug-2020 before Notary Peruvazhuthi at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHIVARANJINI, D/o Ravichandran, DOB 26/07/1996, residing at #112, 2nd Main Road, 7th Cross, Rajendra Nagar Koramangala 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560047, have changed my name to SHIFA KHAN By Virtue of change in religion from HINDU to ISLAM, vide affidavit dated 20.08.2020, before Notary G. KASPAR, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SANDEEP DINESH RATADIA, aged about 49 years S/o Mr. Dinesh Ratadia, Residing at Flat No. 402C, Ranka D Paradise, No.153, Wheeler Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005, I have changed my name from SANDEEP DINESH RATADIA, to SANADIIP RATADIA, vide affidavit dated 21.08.2020, before Advocate & Notary D. GUNA SHEKAR, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, REKHA RATADIA, aged about 46 years, W/o Mr. Sanadiip Ratadia, residing at Flat No. 402C, Ranka D Paradise, No.153, Wheeler Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005, I have changed my name from REKHA RATADIA, to REKHHAA RATADEA, vide affidavit dated 21.08.2020, before Advocate & Notary D. GUNA SHEKAR, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, 13621974K, HAV, BHEEMAPPA ROOGI, presently residing at Door No.56, Modi Garden, 5th Cross, J.C. Nagar, Bangalore-560006, I have changed my wife's name from Smt. B. LAKSHMI, to Smt. LAXMI, vide affidavit dated 21.08.2020, before Notary Public O.S. CHENGAPPA at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, AISHWARYA MANOJ PAI, D/o. Late Manoj Vasudev Pai, W/o Shri Niddodi Sreekanth Nayak, aged 26 years, resident of Flat No. 4, Magnum Residency, 6th Main, 5th Cross, RMS Layout, Sanjaynagar, RMV 2nd Stage PO, Bangalore-560094, Karnataka, have changed my name from AISHWARYA MANOJ PAI and AISHWARYA N. PAI to NIDDODI AISHWARYA NAYAK. All the names and variations mentioned above pertains to one and same person i.e. NIDDODI AISHWARYA NAYAK (New Name) sworn vide Affidavit No. 330 dated 24-Aug-2020 before Notary Peruvazhuthi at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHIKHA SINGH, W/o. Abhijeet Kumar Singh, R/o. No.107, Peninsula Prkruthi, Ittanger Main Road, Sarjapur, Bangalore-562125, Karnataka, India, have changed my name from SHIKHA (Old Name), to SHIKHA SINGH (New Name), vide Affidavit dated: 24-08-2020, sworn before Advocate & Notary, B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SANTOSH DHARESHWAR, S/o. Shridhar Vishnu Rao Dhareshwar, aged about 49 years, residing at No. 111, Sri Matha, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, Silver Oak Street, JP Nagar 5th Phase, Bangalore - 560 078, have changed my name from SANTOSH DHARESHWAR to SANTOSH SHRIDHAR DHARESHWAR. Vide affidavit dated 24.08.2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary N.K. Lakshmana, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SERVICE NO. 15320809A HAV Dharman Madhavarao Unit: 1 (TN) CTS NCC, Anna University Campus Guindy, Chennai, Tamil Nadu State-600025, have changed my Son name from D.DURGA PRASAD to DHARMANA DURGA PRASAD vide affidavit Dated 26/02/2020 sworn before Notary S.I.Balaguru, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, No.C54131Y, COL, KUNWAR VIKRAMJIT SINGH GOGAR, Flat No.102, Tower No.A3, 1st Floor, Maya Garden City Apartments, On Ambala-Zirakpur Highway, Zirakpur, District SAS Nagar, Punjab, Pin -140603, That I have changed my son's name from KUNWAR VEER VIKRAMJIT SINGH GOGAR to KUNWAR SHAMSHER SINGH GOGAR vide affidavit dated: 24.08.2020 before notary N K LAKSHMANA, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, No.C54131Y, COL, KUNWAR VIKRAMJIT SINGH GOGAR, Flat No.102, Tower No.A3, 1st Floor, Maya Garden City Apartments, On Ambala-Zirakpur Highway, Zirakpur, District SAS Nagar, Punjab, Pin -140603, That I have changed my Daughter's name from DIYA SINGH GOGAR to ELENA SINGH GOGAR vide affidavit dated: 24.08.2020 before notary N K LAKSHMANA, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, K. SUBBRAMANYAM, S/o. Kodepalli Gurappa, permanent address 7-37-1, Kalimicheriappenta, Kotha Palli, Gangavaram, Keelapatta - Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, Presently residing at No. 57, 7th Main, 4th Cross, BOB Colony, Puthenahalli, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore - 560 078, have changed my name as K. SUBRAMANYAM, vide affidavit dated 24-08-2020 sworn before Notary Public H.S. Dharma Prasad, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, B. SURINDRANATH, aged about 70 years, resident of No. 685, 3rd Floor, 4th Cross, 7th Main, R.B.I. Layout, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru-560078, have changed my name from B. SURENDRANATH to B. SURINDRANATH. Vide affidavit dated 17-8-2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary Poojari Mahadevappa, Ballari Dist.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, K. SUBBRAMANYAM, S/o. Kodepalli Gurappa, permanent address 7-37-1, Kalimicheriappenta, Kotha Palli, Gangavaram, Keelapatta - Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, Presently residing at No. 57, 7th Main, 4th Cross, BOB Colony, Puthenahalli, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore - 560 078, have changed my name as K. SUBRAMANYAM, vide affidavit dated 24-08-2020 sworn before Notary Public H.S. Dharma Prasad, Bangalore.

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BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer-4, Lakes Division, Room No.309, 3rd Floor, New Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No.: EE-4(Lakes)/TN-7/CORR-1/2020-21 Date: 24-08-2020

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Tender for Removal of weeds in water body & wetland and cleaning of inlets at Dasarahalli (Chokkasandra) Lake.

Ref: 1) Tender Notification No.: EE-4(Lakes)/TN-7/2020-21, Dtd: 17-08-2020
Due to Technical reasons, the dates pertaining to the work of Removal of weeds in water body & wetland and cleaning of inlets at Dasarahalli (Chokkasandra) Lake notified vide ref (1) has been postponed and the revised dates pertaining to the work to shall be read as under.

Revised Calendar of Events: (1) Last date & time for receipt of Tenders: 04.09.2020 upto 4.00 PM. (2) Date of Pre-bid meeting: 01.09.2020 at 3.00 PM. (3) Date of opening of Technical Bid Tender Document: 05.09.2020 at 4.30 PM. All the other terms and conditions of tender notification remain unaltered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-4, Lakes Division

"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"

KARNATAKA STATE TOWN PLANNING BOARD

GPO PB # 5257, Multi-Storeyed Building Phase IV, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru- 01. Phone No: 080-22358988, 22353974, 22353976 Fax: 080-22389519

e-mail: jtdpstpb@karnataka.gov.in website: www.kstpb.dclp.gov.in

No: KSTPB/01/Tender-vehicles/2020-21 Date: 24.08.2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed firms for supply of vehicles and drivers for the office of Member Secretary, Karnataka State Town Planning Board, Gate No.4, Multi storeyed building, Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-01 on 24.08.2020 through e-procurement portal. Tender document on e-procurement platform will be published on 24.08.2020. The last date for submission of bid is 01.09.2020 upto 5.30 PM. Date and time of opening of Technical bids is 03.09.2020 upto 10.30 AM, and date of opening of financial bids is 04.09.2020 upto 10.30 AM. Prescribed tender form along with NIT, terms & conditions etc., can be obtained / downloaded from and submitted through e-procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-

Deputy Director,
Karnataka State Town Planning Board.

DIPR/DDUJA/893/2020-21

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

CHENNAI - 600 008.

Tender Notice No. 01/2020-2021 Dated: 24.08.2020

For and on behalf of Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority sealed Tenders are invited from Registered / Reputed Consultancy Firms by the Member Secretary under two cover system for Providing Consultancy Services for "preparation of Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Three Wholesale Markets with Modern Amenities at Kattankolathur / Potheri Village, Kuthambakkam Village and Mathur Village". For all details can be seen in www.tenders.tn.gov.in.

Last date & time for downloading the application forms	27.09.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs.
Last date & time for submission of bids on	28.09.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs.
Date & time for opening of bids	28.09.2020 upto 15.30 Hrs.

MEMBER SECRETARY,
CMDA, Chennai - 600 008.

DIPR/3164/Tender/2020

EDELWEISS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office Situated At Edelweiss House, Off. C. S. T. Road, Kalina, Mumbai - 400 098

E-AUCTION - STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE
Sale by E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to borrower and guarantor that below mentioned property will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS" for the recovery of Rs. 2,81,16,135/-Rupees Two Crore Eighty One Lakhs Sixteen Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Five Only as on 18.08.2020 + Future interest + Statutory Expenditure + Legal Expenses + Incidental Charges till the recovery of loan dues. The said property is mortgaged by Mr. Devaiah K P, Mrs. K D Ramya to M/s Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited for the loan availed by them. The secured creditor is having physical possession of the below mentioned Secured Asset.

Description of the secured Asset	Reserve Price and EMD	Date & Time of the Auction	Date & Time of the Inspection
All that Part and Parcel of The Property Flat No.108(1st Flr), 205(2nd Flr),316 (3rd Flr) And 405 (4th Flr),Survey No.111/1 Sri Krishna Sai Enclave, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore 560036	Rs.2,28,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Twenty Eight Lakhs Only)	30.09.2020 Between 11am to 12 pm (With 5 Minutes Unlimited Auto Extensions)	03.09.2020 between 11.00 am to 03.00 pm
Totally measuring 4985 Sq. Ft (1241 sqft + 1241 sqft + 1262sqft + 1241 Sqft) and bounded on : EAST : H.N. Gopala Gowda Property, SOUTH : Road, WEST : Remaining Kharab land belonging, NORTH : Road	Earnest Money Deposit Rs.22,80,000/-		

Note:-

1) The auction sale will be conducted online through the website <https://www.bankauctions.com> and Only those bidders holding valid Email, ID PROOF & PHOTO PROOF, PAN CARD and have duly remitted payment of EMD through DEMAND DRAFT/ NEFT/RTGS shall be eligible to participate in this "online e-Auction".
2) The intending bidders have to submit their EMD by way of remittance by DEMAND DRAFT / RTGS/NEFT to: Beneficiary Name: EDELWEISS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED, Bank: Citibank N.A., Account No. 36814012, SARFAESI- Auction, EDELWEISS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED, IFSC code: CITI0100000.

3) Last date for submission of online application BID form with EMD is 29.09.2020

4) For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please visit <https://www.bankauctions.com> or Please contact on the: Help Line No. +91-124-4302020/21/22/23/24, Mr. Jay Singh Ph. +91-7738866326, Mr.Hareesh Gowda Ph. 9594597555 Help Line e-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com.

Mobile No. 9908563399/9870710306/7208091776 Sd/- Authorized Officer

Date: 25.08.2020 For Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited

Govt. of Bihar

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Notice Inviting Bids for Selection of Consultancy Firm for Setting up of Project Management Unit under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Bihar.

- Tender Fee Rs. 5000.00 (Five Thousand rupees only).
- The project period will be mentioned in main document.

> The details of the schedule for the bid are given below:

S.No.	Event	Date
1	Date for downloading RFP document from www.urban.bih.nic.in	Till 07.09.2020, 12.30PM
2	Date, place and time of pre Bid meeting : Conference Hall, UDHD, Patna	28.08.2020 12.30PM
3	Last date for submission of Request for Proposal with financial bid	07.09.2020 03.00PM
4	Submission of hard copies (D.D. for RFP Document, EMD and Affidavits at UD&HD	08.09.2020 03.00PM
5	Opening of technical bid (through www.urban.bih.nic.in)	08.09.2020 04.00PM
6	Opening of Financial Bid (through www.urban.bih.nic.in)	Will be intimated later to successful bidders

- Interested bidders may download the complete Request for Proposal document from www.urban.bih.nic.in and submit the proposal by enclosing a Demand Draft of Rs. 5000/- against cost of RFP document applicable in favor of Special Secretary, Urban Development & Housing Department payable at UD&HD.

Other details can be seen in the RFP document on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/ www.urban.bih.nic.in

For further details please visit website State.bihar.gov.in/prdibihar

Special Secretary,
Urban Development & Housing Department,
Bihar, Patna

PR. No. 005460 (Urban) 2020-21

नोडल कोरोना क संघ में विस्तृत जानकारी अथवा सुचना हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

घात सामग्री - संघीय किनो लक्ष की जानकारी अथवा सुचना हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD)

Registered Office: No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai, TN - 600 002. # 044-42995000, 044-42995050

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

NOTICE is hereby given that the following borrower(s) have availed loan from Equitas Housing Finance Limited (EHFL) / Equitas Finance Limited (EFL) / Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd. In the meantime, M/s Equitas Housing Finance Limited, has amalgamated with M/s Equitas Finance Limited, as per the Scheme of Amalgamation sanctioned by the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Madras. In CP Nos: 119 TO 121 OF 2016 vide its order dated 06-06-2016. By virtue of the said amalgamation, all the rights and liabilities of Equitas Housing Finance Limited stands vested in Equitas Finance Limited. This is to further inform you that under the certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies, Chennai, the name of M/s Equitas Finance Limited, was changed to M/s Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited, and the Reserve Bank of India had issued a license dated 30-06-2016 to Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited to carry on the business of banking. The said borrower(s) had failed to pay Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) of their loan on account of which their loan account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset as per the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India. The borrower(s) have provided security of the immovable properties, the details of which are described herein below. The details of the loan and the amounts outstanding and payable by the borrower(s) to ESFB as on date are also indicated herein below. The borrower(s) as well as the public in general are hereby informed that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ESFB, the secured creditor has initiated action against the following borrower(s) under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the SARFAESI Act). If the following borrower(s) fail to repay the outstanding dues indicated against their names within 60 (Sixty) days of this notice, the undersigned will exercise any one or more of the powers conferred on the Secured Creditor under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, including power to take possession of the properties and sell the same. The public in general is advised not to deal with properties described herein below.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) (NAME OF THE BRANCH)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)
Branch: K. R. Puram. L.No:SEKMRP0227492 Borrower : Mr. Narayanaswami Co-Borrower : Mrs. Rathnamma	09.06.2020 & Rs. 5,60,818/-	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Khaneshumari Khattha No.29/34/1A, situated at Jangile Gramapachayathi, situated at Hegganahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore rural district., North by : House of Bhagyanamma South by : Govt Road East by : Govt Road West by : House of Narayanaswami Measurement : East to west 24ft, North to South 27ft, total extent of 648 sq.ft, situated at within the sub-registration district of Devanahalli and registration district of Bangalore rural.
Branch: H S R Lyt L.No: SEHRLYT0223626 Borrower : Mr. Janardhan. Co-Borrower : Mrs. Nethravathi. C.G	21.07.2020 & Rs. 10,85,044/-	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing site No.38, Khattha No.130 & 131, Situated at Herohalli Village, Yeshwathpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk. North by : Site No.39, South by : Other's Property, East by : Site No.37, West by : Road, Measurement : East to West 40ft, North to South 30ft, Total extent of 1200 Sq.ft Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Bangalore North Taluk and Registration District of Bangalore.
Branch: B.G.Road L.No: SEBGRD0228661 Borrower : Mr.Manjunath Co-Borrower : Mrs. Sowmya. M	07.07.2020 & Rs. 8,87,221/-	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing property No. 109, Presently BBMP Municipal No. 148/19/228, Situated at Singapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Presently Comes within the limits of BBMP, Ward No. 11 North by : Property No. 249, South by : Road, East by : Property No. 227, West by : Property No. 229, Measurement : East to west 20 Ft, North to South 30ft, Totally Measuring 600 Sq.ft Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Gandhinagar and Registration District of Bangalore.
Branch: Makali L.No: SEMAKL0216792 Borrower : Mr. Ranganatha. M Co-Borrower : Mrs. Jayalakshmi. R	21.07.2020 & Rs. 5,09,294/-	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Eastern portion of property No.19/2, Gramatanra Khasnumari No.19 (Western Portion), New Katha Si.No.19/2, Situated at Kenchanpura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. North by : Common Passage, measuring 50.5 x 3ft, South by : Property belonging to Anjanappa, East by : Property belonging to Channanahumiah, West by : Property belonging to Parvathamma, Measurement : East to West 25.5ft, North to South 18ft, Total extent of 459 Sqft Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Tavarekere and Registration District of Bangalore.

Date : 25.08.2020 Place : Bangalore

Authorised Officer,
Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited.

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QuoteExpress

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION

Parks Department

P.D.C.No.P2/1818/2019

e- TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer / Parks for the following work as per details furnished below:

Sl.No.	Name of the work	Approx. value (Rs. in lakhs)	E.M.D amount (Rs.)
1	Under CRRT Scheme - Formation of new park and playfield at Adyar river bank, Kotturpuram (chainage 2880m to 3200m) in Division-175, Zone-13 (Two cover System)	888.13	8,89,000/-

Tender last date and time of submission : 29.09.2020 upto 3.00 pm.

For more information see www.tntenders.gov.in & www.chennai corporation.gov.in

Pre-bid meeting date and time : 14.09.2020 @ 3.30 pm

Tender opening date and time : 30.09.2020 @ 3.30 pm

Superintending Engineer/Parks

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYAT

Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Bengaluru - 560 009.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/AE-1/03/2020-21 Date: 20-08-2020

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

No. 03/2020-21 DATED: 20.08.2020

Short term tenders are invited through e-procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Rural, for MANPOWER SERVICES to Chief Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Office. The details can be obtained from the e-Procurement website (<http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in>). The Tender documents can be obtained and submitted on or before 03-09-2020 upto 4:00 p.m. For further details contact this office during working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer.

DIPR/B.Rural/145/MAA Comm/2020-21

PNB Housing Finance Limited

Regd. Office : 9th Floor, Antriksh Bhawan, 22, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110 001. Phones : 011-23357171, 23357172, 23705414, Website : www.pnbhousing.com

BRANCH ADDRESS : #56, Sai Arcade, 3rd Floor, Marathahalli Ring Road, Devarabisanahalli, Bangalore - 560103, Email: bangalore@pnbhousing.com, Website: www.pnbhousing.com

CANCELLATION OF E-AUCTION

This is with reference to our earlier E- Auction Publication published in The New Indian Express and Kannada Prabha on 13-08-2020 and Pre- Sale Notice dated 06-08-2020 pertaining to Loan Account No: NHL.MRH0316/276670 in the name of borrowers Mr. Kapil Varma, M/s Sanka India Private Ltd & Mrs. Rama Chari Varma and mortgaged property bearing "All that Piece and Parcel of the Residential Villa No. 158, BEECH TYPE, 'PRESTIGE OZONE' consisting of Ground Floor and First Floor, measuring 3100 Sq feet, situated at Hagadur Village, Hagadur Village Panchayat, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore - 560065 and bounded on as follows: East by: Villa No. 159 in Beech type, West by: Villa No. 157 in Acorn type, North by: Villa No. 155 in Beech type, South by: Internal Layout Road in Prestige Ozone". The E-Auction scheduled on 29-08-2020 for Reserve Price of Rs.2,47,50,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Forty Seven Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) as mentioned in E- Auction Publication published in The New Indian Express and Kannada Prabha on 13-08-2020 and Pre- Sale Notice dated 06-08-2020 is cancelled. This inadvertent error is sincerely regretted.

Place : Bangalore Date : 24-08-2020

AUTHORIZED OFFICER,
PNB HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune, Maharashtra-411035.

Branch Office: 1st Floor, No.11,97/2D, MKB Square, Outer Ring Road, Marathahalli, Bangalore - 560037

POSSESSION NOTICE

U/s 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, Rule 8-1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. (Appendix-IV)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED (BFL) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice(s) to Borrower(s) /Co Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s) /Co Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) /Co Borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned on behalf of M/s Bajaj Finance Limited, has taken over the possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8-1) of the said rules. The Borrower(s) /Co Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the below said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the first charge of BFL for the amount(s) as mentioned herein under with future interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) (LAN No, Name of Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
Branch: Bangalore LAN: 404/LAP34275901 1. Sampath Kumar R (Borrower) 2. Santosh Kumar (Borrower) 3. Satish Kumar (Co-Borrower) All above Staying At- #3 1st Kumpuru Road Hadodisapuram Bangalore-560035 4. Sri Venkateshwar Industries (Co-borrower) Carrying Business At- No:15, 1st Main, 2nd Cross Near Milk Dairy, Hegganahalli Near Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore, Karnataka India-560091	All that part and parcel of the non-agriculture properties situated at, comprised in and bearing description: "H.No. 15/23,kathano-23, 8th Cross Hadodisapuram Village Sarjapura Main Road Bangalore-560035", North: Road East- Other Prop. South- Road West- Vacant Site.	28th February 2020 Rs. 76,02,650/- (Rupees Seventy Six Lakhs Two Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Only)	19th August 2020
Branch: Bangalore (LAN No. 4040H/L2799701) 1. Srinivas (Borrower) Staying At- No 9/100, Near Bus Stand, Panathuru, Bangalore-560103 2. Savithamma S (Co-borrower) Staying At- No 9/100 Grama Panchayathi Panathuru Bangalore 560103 3. Sri Anjaneya Enterprises (Co- Borrower) Carrying Business At- No 02 Udaykumar Building Near S.G.R Dental College Murne Kolalu Marthalli Bangalore 560037	All that part and parcel of the non-agriculture properties situated at, comprised in and bearing description: "Khattha No:72/02 & 74/74, Rajabhaari Road Varthur, Bangalore - 560037" North- Pvt Prop., East- Pvt Prop. South- 25ft Road, West- Pvt Prop.	28th February 2020 Rs. 70,17,583/- (Rupees Seventy Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Three Only)	19th August 2020

Date : 25.08.2020

Place : Bangalore

For M/s Bajaj Finance Limited

(Vinod Gangadharan)

Authorized Officer

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune, Maharashtra-411035.

Branch Office: 801 to 805, 8th Floor, Prestige Towers, Residency Road, Bangalore - 560025

POSSESSION NOTICE

U/s 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

Rule 8-1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. (Appendix-IV)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED (BFL) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice(s) to Borrower(s) /Co Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s) /Co Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) /Co Borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned on behalf of M/s Bajaj Finance Limited, has taken over the possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8-1) of the said rules. The Borrower(s) /Co Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the below said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the first charge of BFL for the amount(s) as mentioned herein under with future interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) (LAN No, Name of Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
Branch: Bangalore (LAN No. 404SH/L17049536 and 404SH/L16832238) Priya Collathur Thirunaranayan (Borrower) Staying At - 17 Anushkanilaya, 26 Cross, Balaji Layout, Kagadapura, C V Raman Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560093	All that part and parcel of the non-agriculture properties situated at, comprised in and bearing description: "No. 22, 26th C Cross Balaji Layout Kagadapura Bangalore - 560093" Boundaries : East- Site No.33, West- 25ft Road North- Site No. 23, South- Private Property	26th February 2020 Rs. 70,40,471.57/- (Seventy Lakhs Forty thousand Four Rupees and Fifty Seven Paise only)	19th August 2020
Branch: Bangalore (LAN No. 4030H/L25281151 and 4030H/L21087556) 1. Saroj Ad Creators Ind Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Carrying Business At- No 23 Nibav Tower 4th Flr Lb Adyar Chennai 600020 2. Dhineshkumar JGN (Co- Borrower) 3. Shyam Kumar GND (Co- Borrower) 4. Manimozhi D (Co- Borrower) Staying At - Old No 53, New No 22A MGR Road Kalakshetra Colony Besant Nagar Chennai 600090	All that part and parcel of the non-agriculture properties situated at, comprised in and bearing description: Flat No: 13177, 17th Floor, 17th Level, 13th Block, Prestige Shantiniketan Apartment, Sadaramangala Village Hoodi, Village K.R Puram Hobli, Bangalore-560067 North- Railway Line, South- Internal Road, East- Industrial Estate, West- Internal Road	28th February 2020 Rs.89,29,029/- (Rupees Eighty Nine Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand Twenty Nine Only)	19th August 2020

Date : 25.08.2020

Place : Bangalore

For M/s Bajaj Finance Limited

(Vinod Gangadharan)

Authorized Officer

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C. AT NEELAMANGALA

C.Misc. No.192/2020

Petitioner : Gangaramiah, S/o Late Chikkarangiah, Aged about 62 years, Riat No. 11, 1st Cross, 1st Main, Shiv Extension, Jnaneshwari College Road, Marayanpannappaly, Bangalore.
Respondent : The Thashid, (Registrar of Birth and Deaths), Neelamangala Taluk, Neelamangala

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Whereas the petitioner above named has presented petition to this Hon'ble court under Section 13(3) of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for order direct the respondent authority to get enter the date of petitioner's mother by name Lakshamma W/o Late Chikkarangiah was died on 28-06-2012 at Seepalgaly Village, Sompura Hobli, Neelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. The Hon'ble court has filed on 16-08-2020 for hearing of the petition and that if any person's desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly instructed at 11 AM. Failing which the said application will be heard & determined as ex parte.

Given under my hand the seal of the court on this 17-08-2020

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer/Court of the Civil Judge (Jr. Division) & J.M.F.C. Court, Neelamangala
Advocate

Periya twin murder case: Kerala HC to pronounce judgment today

Judge says investigating officer filed chargesheet blindly, without a proper probe



Kasaragod MP Rajmohan Unnithan with fathers of Kripesh and Sarath Lal P K during the 24-hour hunger strike at Kalliyot in Periya on Monday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

In a dramatic turn of events, the Kerala High Court on Monday listed the Periya twin murder case for pronouncing judgment in the appeal filed by the state government opposing CBI probe on Tuesday at 10.15am.

The parents of deceased Youth Congress workers Kripesh and Sarath Lal had approached the Kerala High Court earlier in the day seeking to issue a directive to the state government to withdraw the appeal and transfer the case to any other bench for fresh argument. The duo was allegedly killed by local CPM leaders at Periya, Kasaragod, on February 17, 2019.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice S Manikumar and Justice C T Ravikumar will pass the judgment.

A division bench comprising Manikumar and Ravikumar had reserved its order after the conclusion of the arguments by the state government and counsel of the victims' parents on November 16, 2019. While ordering a CBI probe, the single judge had observed that the investigating officer filed the charge sheet blindly, without conducting any proper or effective investigation to find out the truth, believing the version of Peethambaram, a local CPM leader and the prime accused in the case. However, the state government filed an appeal before the division bench.

The parents of the duo submitted that the division bench has not yet pronounced the verdict even though nine months have passed after reserving its order. In the Anil Rai vs the State of Bihar case, the Supreme Court had stated that if the judgment is not pronounced within a period of six months for any reason, any of the parties shall be entitled to move an application before the chief justice of the High Court with a prayer to withdraw the case and transfer it to another bench for fresh hearing. It is up to the chief justice to grant the prayer or to pass any order.

The petitioner argued that even on the very first day of hearing, the division bench was not inclined to grant any stay for CBI probe. The CBI had re-registered the case and an investigation team was constituted. The agency had collected the call detail records of the accused persons, suspects and some of the officials.

Cong MP on hunger strike, says govt stalling CBI probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Karnahangad

CONGRESS MP Rajmohan Unnithan on Monday launched a 24-hour hunger strike at Kalliyot near Periya here to protest against the government's alleged attempt to stonewall the investigation into the murder of Youth Congress workers Sarath Lal P K, 24, and Kripesh, 19, last year.

The Kasaragod MP alleged that the government was obstructing the probe fearing that the CBI may unearth the role of top CPM leaders in the murders.

Unnithan, who was joined by Sarath's father Sathyanarayanan and Kripesh's father Krishnan at the protest venue, said he decided to launch a hunger strike as the state police were yet to hand over the case diary and other documents to the CBI even 10 months after a single bench of the High Court transferred the case to the agency.

On September 30, 2019, the bench had quashed the chargesheet filed by the Crime Branch of Kerala Police and transferred the case to CBI. The state government had then challenged the order in front of a division bench.

Unnithan said the government spent ₹1 crore from the exchequer to bring top Supreme Court lawyers Maninder Singh, the former solicitor general of the first Narendra Modi-led government, and Prabhas Bajaj, to appear on its behalf.

"The chargesheet filed by the police was strange as the prosecution has named the suspects as witnesses," he said. Sarath's sister Amritha and Kripesh's sister Krishnapriya attended the inaugural function of the protest.

Sarath and Kripesh were hacked to death at Kalliyot on February 17, 2019.

The police had arrested 14 persons in the case, all of them either CPM leaders or linked to the party.

'Political violence will stop if Pinarayi decides'

The CPM is grooming goons to silence dissenting voices, alleged KPCC president Mullappally Ramachandran after inaugurating Unnithan's hunger strike via videoconferencing. He said in political killings, Kerala was next only to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The CPM has a culture of glorifying murderers, he alleged.

CPM started the culture of violent politics in Kerala. The murder of Varikkal Ramakrishnan, an RSS activist from Kannur, in 1969 was the first political killing in the state. Pinarayi Vijayan, who is now chief minister, led the attack. Mullappally Ramachandran, Kerala Cong unit president

COVID FALLOUT

PERCUSSION ARTISTS JOIN HANDS TO 'DRUM OUT' ECONOMIC CRISIS

A SATISH @Palakkad

SADANAM Jayaraj and Cheruplassery Sivashankaran are maddalam artists for Kathakali performances. The Covid spread and the resulting lockdown had rendered them as well as several of their ilk, including Elathaalam artists - Palappuram Rajan, P Unnikuttan, Ganesh, P K Ramesh and P K Sethumadhavan - jobless. Pushparaj donning the role of 'Puthan' for the Ottappalam desam, who dances along with the 'thira' during the festivals, had also joined them.

As they wracked their brains for a way out of the economic misery, suggestions veered round to the possibility of taking up contracts on behalf of farmers since all of them owned tracts of land. Thus a collective of percussion artists took shape.

Seeing their acquaintances M Ponnann and Sandeep, both auto drivers, and

Krishnan, a catering worker, struggling due to lack of income, the collective assigned them to ready the fallow lands for cultivation.

Now the collective has 48 members - 23 men and 25 women. The women workers are yet to enter the fields and they will be joining during the 'Nadeel Utsavam' scheduled to take place in Meetha near Ottappalam on Chathayam day. Sixty farmers own 40 acres of fallow land in Meetha. Since most of the farmers had left their lands barren, wild birds destroyed whatever had been cultivated, said P Abhilash, a farmer, who owns 30 cents of land and took the initiative to mobilise fellow ones.

Abhilash said, "The Jayaraj-led collective was ready to do the work for Rs 19,000 per acre. Only the seeds will be provided by the landowner. The Janakeeya committee consisting of farmers belonging to all political parties decided to jointly foot the cost."

Dairy sector faces misery amid pandemic

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S @Karwar

THE dairy sector which provides livelihood to lakhs of dairy farmers in the State is reeling under a severe loss due to the Covid-19 crisis. The milk unions have reduced their payment to the farmers by about Rs 46 per litre. Despite surplus production, the marketing of milk and byproducts has hit badly, according to the milk unions.

The closure of hotels, restaurants, schools and colleges and cafeterias in software firms and postponement of marriages has hit the Karnataka Milk Federation hard, which is now hoping that Covid-19 ends soon.

Earlier the hotel, restaurant and cafeteria segment consumed up to 4 lakh litres. They would buy our jumbo packets (6 litre packet of milk and 25 li-



This is due to the Covid-19 situation where the demand for milk has reduced sharply. We are in a severe crisis and wondering how to pay the farmers from next month

Nelligere Balu, Director, Mandya Milk Union

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"BOTH Assembly and Council halls will have this seating arrangement. All MLAs and MLCs will be given instruction to wear a face shield and face mask, which is mandatory, before entering the hall. A sanitizer bottle will be kept in front of each seat," Law Minister J

tres curd). The cafeterias of the software companies consumed over one lakh litres of milk. All this has stopped ever since the pandemic outbreak." B C Satish, Managing Director, Karnataka Milk, told TNIE.

Nelligere Balu, Director, Mandya Milk Union, said that all the milk unions in the State have reduced the payment to the farmers based on the availability of cash. Accordingly, Bengaluru Milk Union Limited (BAMUL) and Mangalore Milk Union are paying Rs 26 per litre of milk - a reduction of Rs 4 per litre. "Our Mandya Milk Union used to pay Rs 30 per litre, then it reduced it by Rs 2.76. It has again reduced it to Rs 24," said Balu.

"This is all due to the Covid-19 situation where the demand for milk has reduced

C Madhuswamy said.

There are 270 seats in the assembly hall, of which only 224 have mikes. "We will fix mikes at all the 270 seats," he said.

This time the public gallery will be closed. Arrangements are being made for the media, he said.

On the officers' gallery, the minister said only IAS officers

sharply. We are in a severe crisis and wondering how to pay the farmers from next month," Balu said.

However, the milk producers of North Karnataka are still in the safe zone.

"We are producing about 3 lakh litres of milk, of which 2.9 lakh litres is our consumption, the remaining is converted into powder. We have always been paying Rs 23.50 per litre. Only those who paid Rs 30 have now reduced the payment," said Guru Siddanagouda, former president, Raichur, Ballari, Koppal Milk Union Limited.

When contacted, B C Satish, Managing Director, KMF, only said the milk producers are being paid by taking a working capital of Rs 750 crore as announced by the Prime Minister.

of the rank of Principal Secretary and above will be allowed. No junior officials will be called this time.

This apart, the canteen at the assembly lobby will be shifted outside near the entrance.

In March, the session was cut short due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

MONSOON EFFECT

Onion to become kitchen king again, price set to go north

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

TIME to stock up on onions. The bulb is set to become a prized possession with the monsoon playing spoilsport - traders say the price of this kitchen essential is due to go sharp north in the days ahead, while the quality will nosedive.

They blame the monsoon, flooding and poor inter-state coordination for this. Onion traders say that a kilo of onion, which cost Rs 10, almost doubled during the festive period, after the lockdown was eased and markets were opened. But now the price is likely to shoot up further.

At present, 1kg of onion costs Rs 20-30, depending on the size, and is likely to escalate to Rs 40-50; in some places, a superior grade of the bulb costs Rs 50, and could go up to Rs 80.

"During the festival season, though cost was rising, we didn't escalate the price too much as we feared we would lose whatever little business we were getting after the lockdown was lifted. But now we will be

forced to sell at a high price if there is poor supply," said a trader.

C Udayshankar, secretary of the Onion and Potato Traders' Association, Yeshwantpur, said that most of the retailers did not hike prices during the festival, but now costs are set to rise. "Heavy rainfall and flooding in Maharashtra has damaged standing crops. So far, the onion coming from Maharashtra is old stock, and will not last long. The new stock will be moist and have more water content, making them difficult to store for long," he said.

Last year too, consumers, farmers and traders had faced a similar situation, where onion quality had dipped and cost was high.

"Apart from Maharashtra, heavy rain and flooding in North Karnataka will also lead to a price escalation. The picture will be clear after a fortnight, when new stock starts coming in. The stock arriving from Maharashtra is of poor quality and there is no new produce from Karnataka so far," he added.



Last year too, consumers, farmers and traders had faced a similar situation, where onion quality had dipped and cost was high | EXPRESS

Crops rotted after heavy showers

G SUBHASH CHANDRA @Chitradurga

Due to heavy rainfall and moisture in the air, onion growers in the district are in a fix, as their crops have been hit by purple blotch and bulb rot disease, leading to massive losses.

Farmers were expecting good returns from the crops, but are now not expecting to even cover their cultivation costs. The non-availability of labour is also worrying farmers. Speaking to TNIE, deputy director, horticulture department, G Savitha said damp conditions due to heavy rain has led to purple blotch and bulb rot disease, and that the department is asking farmers to use pesticides to control the spread. "Until the crops receive ample sunshine, these diseases cannot be controlled. Water-logged areas are suffering a lot," said Savitha.

Crops in Chitradurga, Chalakere and Hiriya taluks are affected the most. About 16,500 hectares of cultivated land is for onion crops, and each hectare produces 125-150 quintals of onion.

Somendra Kumar, who grows onions in Belaghatta village, said once such diseases attack crops, the bulb starts rotting, and this spreads fast across the crop. Kumar added that prices this year have fallen too - last year the going price was Rs 2,700-4,500 per quintal, which is now at Rs 500- Rs 1,000.

"Farmers should consult horticultural experts and use suggested measures to prevent the spread of the diseases," said officials from KVK Babbur.

'Sonia or Rahul must lead party'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

KHARGE said Sonia enjoyed the support of all Congress leaders and it was amply clear at the meeting. "We have lost power due to various reasons and I aired my personal opinion that Sonia Gandhi should continue as AICC president. In case she cannot, Rahul Gandhi should take over," Kharge said.

The CWC meeting discussed key issues like Narendra Modi government's failures, failing economy, job losses, labour welfare concerns and others, he added.

The CWC discussed the letter by 23 senior leaders seeking a change in party leadership, Congress Legislature Party chief Siddaramaiah wrote to Sonia, reminding her that it is not the first time that the Congress has faced difficulties.

He said, "I humbly request you to continue as the President of All India Congress Committee, and if you feel that your health may not permit for full-fledged dedication, I urge you to convince Shri Rahul Gandhi to take up the position."

He said, "This is not the first time that the INC has faced difficulties, and every time, the party has made a comeback. We should always remember that the Gandhi family held the party together during all difficult times, and their contribution shall always be etched in the memories of all Indians and Congressmen," Siddaramaiah said in his letter. He added that



Indira Gandhi led the party to victory despite losing in 1977 and Rajiv Gandhi had filled up a "huge vacuum of leadership" created after her death, much like Sonia Gandhi did after Rajiv's assassination.

MEERA BHARDWAJ @Bengaluru

WITH high losses of cattle due to continuing conflicts around tiger reserves, farmers are holding fewer livestock. A study done in and around Nagarhole and Bandipur reveals that cattle loss rates are very high, and therefore, there was a need to shift from local to hybrids.

Cattle grazing in and around protected areas, especially tiger reserves in Karnataka, has led to livestock injury and deaths from big cats and leading to direct economic losses to farmers. Such losses continue to derail conservation efforts as affected farmers retaliate against wildlife or appeal for capture of ti-



Big cats have killed many cattle grazing around tiger reserves in Karnataka, which has led to farmers suffering losses | EXPRESS

gers. Scientists recommend specific improvements to existing conservation policies and regulations to support local livelihoods and protect natural habitats.

Scientists of Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bengaluru, and Duke Kunshan University, China, conducted studies in giant panda habitat in China and tiger habitat of Karnataka. They studied the relationship between livestock-rearing in China and India, and its potential implications for the conservation of flagship species such as the tiger in India.

They conducted 281 socioeconomic household surveys in China and 369 surveys in India in 2018. This research aimed to

understand the impact of livestock loss on livestock holding size and rearing as a livelihood. They further conducted a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether "domestic or hybrid breeds" were more profitable.

Dr Krithi Karanth, co-author of the study, says, "As we grapple with the need to protect and maintain habitats for tigers, we must create jobs for local people that are affordable and pragmatic through social enterprises and market tools that promote sustainable livelihoods. In India, the shift from domestic to hybrid cattle has seen a decrease in predation incidents. This shift must be encouraged with help from the

government and NGOs."

By shifting to hybrid cattle, households may be able to simultaneously increase their profits and reduce the risk of human-wildlife conflict. Some households in their survey were hesitant to convert entirely to hybrid breeds due to cultural reasons.

Hybrids are likely to be stalled rather than grazed unguarded in fields or near the forests, therefore resulting in lower depredation. So, scientists recommend that conservation policies should be devised to provide alternative livelihood options for vulnerable communities living alongside conflict-prone tigers or leopards and also protect key habitats of flagship species.

CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Shift from local to hybrids to check cattle losses in wildlife areas: Study



INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

THE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY CANNOT BE WAITING FOR GODOT

In an indirect democracy like India, the party is paramount. People mostly vote on party affiliation; the latter's policy ideas and ideology are crucial aspects of democratic choice. But to belabour an obvious point, a party has to stay alive—in all senses of the word. For an opposition party, that means having a grassroots link, and a robust chain linking that to policy debates. It has to channel and voice any disaffection in society, and then parlay that into constructive critique of government, to ensure the latter stays accountable. To be efficient in this role, a semblance of inner-party cohesion is vital, but without shutting out genuine debate and democracy. A party averse to inner-party democracy, structural and normative, cannot be expected to practise it in the public domain. History shows that autocratic regimes invariably reflect those same instincts in their internal functioning. The Congress has to be mindful of these pitfalls.

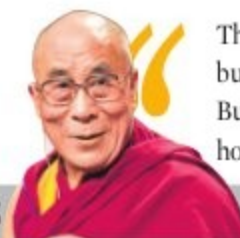
That nearly two dozen of its stalwarts had to write a letter—a 'dissenting note'—to the interim president is a pointer to the hopeless drift in the party. A main opposition party ridden with flux and ad-hocism right at the top is unacceptable. Having a full-time president, visible and engaged in today's 24x7 politics, is not just an internal matter of the party. There are abnormal levels of trauma in the common Indian experience in these times—millions of jobs lost, incomes halved, industries debilitated, a pandemic still in rampage mode, regardless of public fatigue. All this needs to be put forth in a coherent voice: social media critiques are not enough. The main opposition party cannot be waiting for Godot. It has to find or choose a leader who is interested in leading, through processes available within. It cannot have a working committee of aging, ailing leaders. A full-fledged split was barely averted in Rajasthan. Now this theatre... or is it the prelude to the curtains falling?

ADDRESSING TOURISM SECTOR'S CONCERNS

As India steps on the pedal to further unlock and speed up economic recovery, the recent US travel advisory does not build confidence. Flagging issues of crime, terrorism, unrest as well as Covid-19, India's Level 4 ranking in the advisory has left the tourism and hospitality industry alarmed. The Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH), an umbrella body of 10 national tourism, travel and hospitality organisations in the country, has requested the Union tourism minister to take up the matter with the external affairs ministry.

The body's concerns are justified because the current travel rating pegs India with countries like Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen and Syria, among others. According to FAITH, its associations have been instrumental in bringing up the number of tourists from 10-15 million to about 40 million in the last decade. It remains a top source for tourism across various segments, while its tourists net the highest average stay in India. In the current scenario, when the country is looking to revive the economy, the travel rating shows India's state of affairs in poor light.

Given the continuous surge in coronavirus cases, the Indian tourism sector has taken a bad hit and is considered to be making one of the worst recoveries in the global market. Hotel bookings are very low, as is the tourist confidence level. This is ominous for a sector that contributes significantly to the GDP while being a top employment generator. The asymmetry of states using different lockdown and shutdown measures to control the spread of infections has proved detrimental for the travel and tourism sector. Last week, the Ministry of Home Affairs asked states to allow unhindered movement of persons and goods, which should pave the way for the normalisation of travel and tourism. But much of it would depend on the confidence levels of domestic tourists. Once domestic tourism picks up without hurting the Covid-19 containment measures, it would send the right message to international tourists too. The festive season that sets off the peak tourism calendar is right ahead, but the onus would be on states to display resilience. It would be for their own socio-economic well-being as well.



The real destroyer of our peace of mind isn't an external weapon, but our own destructive emotions. Neither our friends nor even the Buddha provide us an opportunity to practice patience in the way a hostile person does. And thus ... an enemy can become our teacher

Dalai Lama

The handling of the pandemic has uniformly affected the economy and livelihoods. That may not be *vikas*, but whatever it is, it is *sabka* nevertheless

I BELIEVE THE PRIME MINISTER

SALMAN ANEES SOZ



Deputy Chairperson of the professionals' wing of the Congress

Donald Trump critic George Conway recently wrote an opinion piece in the *Washington Post*, headlined "I (still) believe the president, and in the president". Conway's piece inspired me to write something that I didn't think possible:

I believe the prime minister and in the prime minister.

I believe the prime minister when he says that there is "no intrusion" of the Chinese military into Indian territory, even though his own Defence Ministry posted a document on its website admitting the reality of such intrusions. The document noted that the "Chinese side transgressed in the areas of Kugrang Nala, Gogra, and north bank of Pangong Tso lake on 17-18 May, 2020." In the prime minister's defence, it should be noted that the document was immediately removed from the website. Since the document was removed, like the unemployment and GDP reports earlier, we can continue to believe the prime minister. Just as we don't have an unemployment problem, we don't have a China problem.

I also believe the prime minister when he says his government is delivering on the promise of minimum government and maximum governance. You have to be blind not to see the evidence. Just a few months ago, hundreds of thousands of desperate workers were walking

on the roads and the government was nowhere to be seen. Isn't that minimum enough for you? Also, with India's Covid-19 cases and deaths rising in world league tables, maximum governance sets new records daily.

I believe the prime minister's decision to introduce electoral bonds will ensure open and transparent politics. However, a former Chief Election Commissioner noted that "electoral Bonds will make the whole system quite opaque and this may be quite dangerous". This may seem confusing until you realise that the Election Commission was not consulted before the electoral bonds were introduced. Also, I believe the prime minister set up the PM CARES Fund to ensure transparency. We may not know what is happening with the money or where it came from, but it clearly says the PM cares and that he will take care of the funds. That is enough for me.

I believe the prime minister's decision to launch demonetisation to combat black money, terrorism and counterfeit currency was correct. It may be true that demonetisation failed to achieve any of its objectives and turned out to be a disaster but that is not the prime minister's failure. The failure belongs to the rest of us for not making the prime minister succeed.

I believe the prime minister was

right to invoke the spirit of the dawn of India's freedom to usher in the GST. The use of "good and simple tax" for the GST was an inspired choice. I believe if the GST is neither good nor simple and if the World Bank calls it "one of the most complex with the second highest tax rate in the world", the problem may be in how we are perceiving reality. The reality of the GST may be bad and complex but we need to believe it is good and simple. I believe the prime minister would like that very much.

This reminds me of the epidemic of intolerance towards the prime minister. I believe the prime minister fought a battle on behalf of Muslim women by criminalising instant triple talaq. Some complain that criminalising an action that the Supreme Court declared invalid was not so much for Muslim women but against Muslim men. But I believe the prime minister's intention was to bring Muslim men at par with



I believe the PM when he said in the context of the CAA that "the law does not impact 1.3 billion Indians..." Because the CAA does not affect any Indian, that is why hundreds of thousands of citizens came out on the streets to protest it

non-Muslim men. Like their non-Muslim brethren, Muslim men can now simply abandon their wives because there is no penalty associated with abandonment. Brilliant!

I believe the prime minister when he says *sabka saath, sabka vikas*. You only have to open your eyes to see how the prime minister has inspired his party men to be inclusive. It cannot be the prime minister's fault if Anurag Thakur, a minister, issues a death threat to dissenters or if Tejaswi Surya, a BJP MP, says that "control of state power by Hindus is absolutely essential for sustenance of Dharma", or if Sambit Patra, a BJP spokesperson, certified the late Rajiv Tyagi, a Congress spokesperson, as a "fake Hindu".

Speaking of inclusion, I believe the prime minister when he said in the context of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) that "the law does not impact 1.3 billion Indians..." Because the CAA does not affect any Indian, that is why hundreds of thousands of citizens came out on the streets to protest it. Some even died.

Some have linked the CAA to the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which has caused much angst in the country. Many see the CAA and the NRC as a deadly combination for Indian Muslims' citizenship rights. However, I believe the prime minister when he says that there has been

"no discussion" of the NRC in Parliament or in the Cabinet even though his own Home Minister famously explained the CAA-NRC link this way: "*Aap chronology samajh lijiye. Pehle CAB ayege... fir NRC ayege...*" (understand the chronology: First CAB, then NRC). OK, I admit it. That was awkward.

As far as *sabka vikas* is concerned, I believe the prime minister has treated everyone equally. The economy was already slumping before the coronavirus showed up. Since then, the prime minister's handling of the crisis has uniformly affected the economy and livelihoods. That may not be *vikas*, but whatever it is, it is *sabka* nevertheless.

Vikas reminds me of Kashmir. I believe the prime minister was right in saying that "Article 370 and Article 35A had only given terrorism, separatism, nepotism and massive corruption". Now, there is no separatism or corruption in J&K. Also, development has never been so fast-paced although some professional pessimists estimate that Kashmir's economy declined by 50% since 5 August 2019. That is unbelievable!

Let me say it again, I believe the prime minister and in the prime minister.

Rest in peace, Rajiv Tyagi. The struggle continues.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @SalmanSoz)

TRAGEDY AND FARCE IN CONGRESS LEADERSHIP DEBATE

SAIJAN KUMAR



Political analyst with People's Pulse, a Hyderabad-based research organisation

The pre-scripted theatrics and rhetoric along expected and familiar lines in the Congress Working Committee meeting over the issue of leadership succession in the grand old party resembles an observation of Karl Marx. Commenting on the farcical and self-staged coup by Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte on 2 December 1851 in France in his long essay 'The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte', Marx commented, "Hegel remarks somewhere that all great, world-historical facts and personages occur, as it were, twice. He has forgotten to add: the first time as tragedy, the second as farce."

With the benefit of hindsight, with respect to the Congress succession crisis, the tragedy was in the events between 1997-1999. Back then, within a year of becoming a primary member of the party, Sonia Gandhi was elected as its president—after the unceremonious removal of then chief Sitaram Keshari and subsequent expulsion of three senior leaders, Sharad Pawar, P A Sangma and Tariq Anwar, for opposing her declaration as the

party's prime ministerial candidate for the 1999 Lok Sabha elections on the grounds of her foreign origin. The template of a Gandhi resigning in the face of criticism, which is followed by a chorus of emotional outbursts by the rank and file of the party and their twin demands—withdrawal of the resignation letter and strict punishment to the dissidents—was firmly entrenched.

The farce is in the repetition of the same template now after 21 years. Consider this: As per the party constitution, it is the members of the Pradesh Congress Committees who happen to be the delegates of the party with the votes to nominate a candidate for party president and elect him/her. Ironically, at present, most of the Pradesh Congress Committee members have been competing to show their unflinching faith in the Gandhis' leadership, including the ones in Andhra Pradesh where the Congress is effectively reduced to the status of a signboard party. The farce is that they are not even taking sides between the mother and son. Rather, the attempt is to har-

monise their loyalty between the two. We find a standard resolution by them requesting Sonia Gandhi to continue as party president with the carefully worded qualification that in case she refuses to do so on health grounds, Rahul Gandhi should take over as the Congress chief. Where is the real choice?

This farce of the ongoing CWC meeting is also problematic for its deliberate obliviousness to the popular societal perception, which is twofold. One, the majority of the people do not accept the Gandhis as their leader and two, they aren't even hopeful that the party could have an autonomous and grounded non-Gandhi as its president. In this backdrop, the drowning chorus by the leaders in reaction to the not-so-critical letter by the 23 senior leaders betrays the state of the party, which is exclusively concerned with the choices of the leaders and workers, without tak-



The grand old party can't entertain the very possibility of a non-Gandhi chief at a time when the family is perceived as baggage by the majority of people. This reveals its status-quoist mindset where winning elections seems to be a secondary matter

ing any cognisance of the electorate's perception.

Further, the real crisis afflicting the party is not the unpopular status of the Gandhis. Rather, it's the clichéd argument offered by the family apologists that the party cannot afford to have a leadership from outside the family despite the substantial waning in the Gandhis' popularity. This circularity of logic is the very malaise that has placed the Congress in a downward spiral since 2014. That the party can't entertain the very possibility of a non-Gandhi chief at a time when the Gandhis are perceived as baggage by the majority of people reveals its status-quoist mindset where winning elections seems to be a secondary matter.

This crisis has serious implications for the state of parliamentary democracy in India on account of the Congress being the prime opposition party. The successive failure of the party, particularly its top leadership, to strike a popular chord with the people and organise them around the issues affecting the electorate in the last six years has meant that the ruling regime has been given a free pass. Therefore, it is high time that the

party comes out of the suffocating clutches of the decadent Rajya Sabha-club leaders, who need the family more than the family needs them. Their domineering presence has ensured that being aspirational in the party is an undonable sin, particularly in younger leaders. With notable exceptions, they are the unelected gatekeepers, the guardian council who owe their well-entrenched power and positions to their unflinching loyalty to the family rather than their popularity among the masses.

Faced with a legitimacy crisis, what the Congress needs now is a quantum leap of trust in an autonomous non-Gandhi leadership and freedom from the unfounded assumption that this would lead to the collapse of the party. Such a move may fail to revive the electoral fortunes of the party in the short run, but it would certainly lead to a change in the negative perception that the party is beholden to a family and therefore is colossally short on internal democracy. However, this seems to be wishful thinking. As of now, given the state of affairs, the farce of the succession debate in the Congress is set to continue and its most expected outcome would be this: The grand old party will end up convincing the people that the BJP is there for the long haul.

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MAIL BAG

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Playing the family tune

It is unfortunate that the Congress, instead of finding a full-time president to lead the party, is allowing the crisis to continue with no consensus among the senior leaders. Though Rahul Gandhi has said no and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has mentioned that someone from outside the Gandhi family should take the reins, many in the old guard are still singing the same tune.
Mohan Daniel, Tripura

Recurring comedy in GOP

The leadership issues of the Congress are making headlines again. The act of some leaders seeking a change in leadership is dubbed as indolence. This issue has become a recurring comedy in the GOP. The party seems to be steadily hurtling towards irrelevance.
Hemantha Bhide, Mangaluru

Ease of doing business

This is with reference to *Post-Covid global alignments* (Aug 24). The author has given timely advice about improving ease of doing business. India has the right demography to take advantage of the situation provided it focuses on its strengths.
R Srikrishna, Bengaluru

Not a communal issue

This is with reference to *US poll: It's all about name, surname & a Black label* (Aug 23). The selection of Kamala Harris vs Tulsi Gabbard cannot be seen as a communal issue. Gabbard practising Hinduism is not significant; she was not chosen as she's a political lightweight. It is wrong to consider Harris anti-Indian just because of her comments about J&K. Many Indians have done the same.
Latha Anantharaman, Palakkad

Children must keep learning

This is with reference to *Education: Why the show must go on* (Aug 24). Many states will have to learn the different ways to ensure children continue learning during the pandemic with the help of various technological resources.
P Prema, Thanjavur

Collecting old newspapers

It was great to read about the retired PWD engineer from Tiruchy who has been collecting newspapers and journals of yore for about six decades (*On a tour through the pages of forgotten history*, Aug 22). Collecting and preserving old newspapers makes for a unique resource to reconstruct the past. This man deserves appreciation for his unflinching passion towards the same.
R Sivakumar, Chennai

Why question rules now?

The Centre's decision to hand the Thiruvananthapuram airport to the Adani group for redevelopment is being opposed by both the LDF and UDF. But as Congress MP Shashi Tharoor pointed out, the Kerala government participated in the tender. It is not right to question the rules once they are lost.
M Haneef, Kottayam

Shorter lease is better

There may be merits in leasing out the management of airports to private parties. But it is not prudent to do so for such a long term. The world is changing at breakneck speed. A long lease term may force the next generation to carry an outdated legacy. It would have been better if the lease was for five years, with a provision for renewal after review.
Salil Kumar V, Kodhi

Evolution of Lord's images

This is with reference to *Vatapi Ganapati, an art historical revisit* (Aug 22). The article was timely and helped us learn about the evolution of Lord Ganesha's images in South India under various dynasties. The author's writings on history are remarkable and evoke great interest among the minds of even common readers.
Chilaka Venkateswarlu, Chennai

The significance of Vatapi

It was delightful to read the article about the history of the earliest-known Ganapati idols on the day of Vinayaka Chaturthi. The author has also touched upon the significance of Vatapi, the capital of the Chalukyas, which is now modern-day Badami in Karnataka's Bagalkot district.
C Ghanshyam, Visakhapatnam

'Free speech is being stifled in Modi govt'

THE lesson that was being handed out to people through activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan's case was that everyone can be silenced, said actor Naseeruddin Shah in conversation with author and senior journalist Kaveree Bamzai in TNIE's Expressions, a series of live web casts with people who matter.

Asked if there is an agenda to silence people, Naseeruddin Shah said, "The lesson that is being handed out to us is, 'don't you dare speak'. If a man like him can be taken to task for expressing what he feels was the truth, then it is really something to worry about."

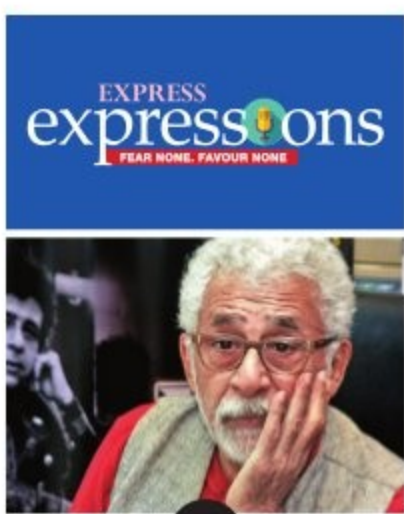
Bhushan has been held guilty of contempt over his tweets on the Supreme Court and Chief Justice of India S A

Bobde and some other former judges.

On the recent controversy over Bloomsbury withdrawing a book titled Delhi Riots 2020: The Untold Story after it announced that BJP leader Kapil Mishra would be among the 'guests of honour' at the launch and the subsequent backlash, the actor said those sowing hatred were blaming it on others.

On February 23, Mishra had given a speech in northeast Delhi saying anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protesters should be removed from a site in that area. The following day, riots broke out.

"It is quite astounding to read the statement of Kapil Mishra, who goes to launch this Bloomsbury book. The



Lesson that is being handed out to us is, 'don't you dare speak'. If Bhushan can be taken to task for expressing, then it is something to worry about

Naseeruddin Shah, actor

kind of things said over there is quite amazing — dividing society, creating distinctions, freedom of speech, and all narrative is allowed in Modi's government. Everything that they are doing is blamed on the opposite camp. Intolerance is being blamed on them, bias is being blamed on them. It is a very convenient argument, this whataboutery," said Shah.

Outspoken actors face flak in social media over their views and expletives are hurled at them, he added. Statements are also routinely misconstrued and de-contextualised, and online trolls ask them 'to go to Pakistan or Turkey', the actor said. "I get these messages too... it makes your heart thump," Shah said.

War movies in India are 'jingoistic' and never show the true nature of it, said the actor during the chat. He also questioned if some movies were made at the cost of bashing a 'neighbouring country'.

"Not a single movie has been made in our country which shows war in its true colours and talks about the horrors of war and that there are no victors in war. Every time we venture into it, it is a jingoistic exercise in which the bad guys are shown as cartoons and we as all-conquering heroes," said Shah.

Speaking of the relevance of the writings of Manto and Faiz Ahmad Faiz in the current times, he spoke of the utility of the money spent on the exercise of conducting the NRC in Assam.

NO PLACE FOR DISSENT IN PARTY AGAINST GANDHIS?

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

With senior Congress leaders who wrote a letter to party's interim chief Sonia Gandhi demanding a leadership change coming under attack led by Rahul Gandhi, many party leaders feel that there is no space in the party for raising serious internal matters.

The CWC meet on Monday saw senior leaders who wrote to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi over leadership issues coming under attack led by Rahul Gandhi with many party leaders feeling that there is no place for raising serious party-related matters in the party.

In the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meet on Monday, a majority of the CWC members joined Rahul and questioned the dissenters for their move and also leaking the letter.

Senior party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad did clarify that the purpose of the letter was not to question Gandhis' leadership, but point out the issues in the functioning of the party and its organisational restructuring that needs immediate attention.

It is not for the first time that senior party leaders are raising their voice against the leadership. But the party's history shows that dissenters have never been able to win back the trust of the Gandhi family, which is the most important thing to survive and to get important posts in the party.

"Ample examples in the past show that any dissent in the party challenging Gandhis' supremacy has been unwelcoming and dissenters have been sidelined. The treatment meted out to two non-Gandhi Congress presidents — PV Narasimha Rao and Sitaram Kesri — before Sonia Gandhi took over the reins of the party in 1998 is well known," said a party leader.

Kesri was unceremoniously dethroned and locked in a room at the AICC headquarters as Sonia took over as party chief. Rao was sidelined completely.

The party did not allow even his dead body to be kept at the party headquarters for people to pay last respects.

Many others like Rajesh Pilot, Jitendra Prasada, Sharad Pawar and PA Sangama were either sidelined or left the party.

'Dissenters' face charges of betrayal at CWC meeting

Calls for action against leaders who were signatories to the letter to Sonia

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

THE seven-hour-long CWC was a stormy session, as expected, after the contents of a letter written by senior Congress leaders to party chief Sonia Gandhi came in public domain, with pro-Gandhi sentiments taking over and signatories to the letter facing the heat and being panned for 'betrayal'.

What came as a big blow to senior leaders and CWC members Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma and Mukul Wasnik, who were among signatories to the letter, was Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra taking them head-on.

Sources said the Gandhis were seemingly upset over the letter being leaked to the media. Rahul pointed out that Azad sent reminders about the letter while his mother was in the hospital and the party was in the midst of a crisis in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Priyanka cornered Azad and others in the group saying what they spoke at the CWC was different from what they had penned in the letter.

Azad, who offered to resign, kept clarifying that letter was not to question Sonia's leadership or Rahul but speaker after speaker accused them of 'betrayal', called it a shameful action. They were accused of being thankless and attempting to weaken the party.

Many CWC members called for an action against the "dissenters" as per party constitution for writing to Sonia and pointing fingers at her leadership. Ambika Soni, who is considered close to Sonia, was very vocal and said rules should be same for all when they break the party discipline.

AK Antony said weakening the high command was akin to weakening the party while Ahmed Patel questioned the need to write a letter and later leaking it to the media. Haryana Congress chief Kumari Selja alleged betrayal saying these leaders have enjoyed key positions for years.

Letter row: Leaders meet at Azad's residence to discuss resolution

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

SOME of the senior Congress 'dissenters', including Kapil Sibal and Shashi Tharoor, met at their senior colleague Ghulam Nabi Azad's house on Monday evening after the CWC debated their letter to the party's interim chief Sonia Gandhi seeking urgent organisational reforms.

Azad, who is Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, and Sharma, deputy leader of the House, felt humiliated the way their colleagues levied charges against them and their loyalties to the party were being questioned, said sources. During the meeting, charges levied by some close party colleagues

like Ambika Soni and Kumari Selja were also discussed.

The meeting was also attended by Mukul Wasnik and Manish Tewari, along with some other signatories to the letter who were present in the national capital, sources said.

The leaders discussed the resolution passed at the CWC meeting, which urged Sonia Gandhi to continue as its interim chief till an AICC session can be convened and authorised her to effect necessary organisational changes to deal with the challenges facing the party. None of the leaders agreed to comment on their deliberations, which took place soon after CWC meet ended.



(From left) Congress leaders Kapil Sibal, AK Antony and Ghulam Nabi Azad | FILE PHOTO

'SONIA MORE UPSET OVER LEAKS'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN a fix following the leak of a letter written by senior leaders questioning the party leadership, the CWC on Monday discussed the verbatim leak of statements made in the meeting and even pictures to the media.

As the CWC met at 11 am, there were pictures and statements that were shared with the media by some of the participants and were soon asked not to share it. This came at a time when the party was discussing the leak of the letter written by 23 party leaders to Sonia Gandhi. According to party sources, Sonia is not so much upset over the content of the letter as over the fact that it was leaked to the media a day before the CWC meeting.

The meeting was called to discuss the issues raised by these leaders. Learning from a previous incident when part meeting on Zoom was leaked to the media, the Congress decided to hold the meeting on a safer platform, Web Ex.

"Despite all measures, the details of the meeting were leaked by party leaders who were part of the meeting. Some even said that this needs to be addressed and a strong message should go about the confidentiality of internal meetings," added a party functionary.

Don't discuss party issues through media: CWC resolution

THE Congress Working Committee (CWC) takes note of the letter of Congress President Sonia Gandhi addressed to General Secretary (Organisation) as also a letter written earlier by certain Congress leaders to the Congress President.

The CWC has extensively deliberated on the letters and, after detailed discussion, places on record the following: First, the last six months have seen the nation in the throes of multiple crises.

We have been beset by (i) the Corona pandemic that continues to claim thousands of lives, (ii) downward-spiralling economy, (iii) massive job losses and growing poverty, and (iv) brazen aggression into and occupation of Indian Territory by the Chinese.

Second, the two voices that have been at the forefront of exposing the Government's in-

adequate responses, divisive politics and audacious propaganda are of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. Sonia Gandhi's hard questions on the handling of the migrants' crisis put this Government to shame. She ensured that Congress-ruled states tackled the pandemic effectively and provided access to healthcare and treatment to all sections of the people. Her leadership has ranked and embarrassed those occupying the highest offices in this government. Rahul Gandhi has resolutely led the fight against the government from the front. The CWC, reflecting the overwhelming view and desire of the rank and file of the Congress, unanimously resolved to strengthen the hands of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in every possible way. The CWC makes it clear that

no one will be or can be permitted to undermine or weaken the party and its leadership at this juncture. The responsibility of every Congress worker and leader today is to fight the pernicious assault on India's democracy, pluralism and diversity by the Modi Government.

Third, and most importantly, the voices of our two leaders have inspired a generation of Indians, both within and outside of the Indian National Congress, to rise and demand answers from this Government which seeks to desperately distract the people through shallow and manufactured issues. It is under their leadership that crores of Congress workers and supporters have reached out to fill the large, callous gaps in governance left by this Government as a result

of which millions belonging to the poor and middle classes have been unjustly deprived of their rights and their livelihoods.

Fourthly, the CWC notes that inner-party issues can't be deliberated through the media or in public fora. The CWC urges and advises all concerned to raise such issues only in party fora in the interest of propriety and discipline.

Fifthly, the CWC authorises the Congress President to affect necessary organisational changes that she may deem appropriate to take on the challenges listed above.

In the light of the above deliberations and conclusions, the CWC unanimously requests Sonia Gandhi to continue to lead the Indian National Congress until such time as circumstances will permit an AICC session to be convened.

VOICES FROM CONG

Let me make it very clear that Rahul Gandhi has neither in CWC nor outside said that this letter was written at the behest of BJP. What I said was, yesterday some Congress person had said that we did it at behest of BJP & in that context I said... if those people can prove this allegation, I will resign

Ghulam Nabi Azad

CWC urges and advises all concerned to raise such issues only in party fora... The CWC has agreed to strengthen the hands of Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi

KC Venugopal

Please do not be misled by false media discourse or misinformation being spread. But yes, we all need to work together in fighting the draconian Modi rule rather than fighting & hurting each other and the Congress

R S Surjewala

I've been the general secretary of the Congress party for many years. We must not forget that in spite of the canard against Sonia Gandhi, she led the party to victory in 2004 and made Atal Bihari Vajpayee sit at home

Kamal Nath

EXAMS

SC declines plea for NEET centres abroad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday declined to direct the Centre to hold the NEET Undergraduate (UG) 2020 at exam centres in Gulf countries. However, it asked the Centre to consider allowing students to come via Vande Bharat Mission flights to appear for the exam scheduled on September 13.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao was hearing a petition filed by one Abdul Azeez, who was pursuing the interest of NEET students.

The petitioner claimed that close to 4000 students in the Gulf region are taking NEET but were unable to travel to India due to ban on international flights and wanted the undergraduate MBBS entrance examination to be either made online or in the alternate, demanded examination centre in Qatar and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

"There are a number of students appearing for NEET from the Gulf, Singapore and Malaysia. Why can't you (MCI) think of having NEET online? This will avoid trouble for so many people studying abroad, especially when the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for engineering courses is being conducted online," the bench said. The Court refused to issue an order to this effect.

EXPRESS READ

Sushant Singh Rajput death: Rhea yet to receive CBI summon

New Delhi: Actor Rhea Chakraborty, an accused in the Sushant Singh Rajput death case, has not received any summons from the CBI, her lawyer said after reports emerged that she and her father had been summoned by the agency. However, CBI sources said that the summons will be issued after the relevant paperwork is carried out. The actress' lawyer said that she would cooperate with the CBI when and if summoned. Rhea has been quizzed by the enforcement directorate, which is probing the case of fraud against her. The case is based on a complaint lodged by the late actor's father in Patna.

UP journalist shot dead over land dispute with relative

New Delhi: A journalist working with a Hindi news channel was on Monday night shot dead in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh, police said. He has been identified as Ratan Singh (45), they said. "Singh, a journalist working with a news channel was shot dead on Monday night in Phephana. We are investigating the case." Additional Superintendent of Police Sanjay Yadav said. Sources however claim that the journalist was shot over an old personal rivalry over a piece of land with a relative who is also his next door neighbour. Three persons including Dinesh Singh, the main culprit have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Group writes to Mark Zuckerberg, reminds him of Facebook's hate speech policy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A Constitutional Conduct Group of former civil servants on Monday wrote an open letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg asking him to make serious efforts to audit the implementation of the social media platform's hate speech policy in India and not undermine the secular and democratic basis of the Indian Constitution by demonising the minorities.

In a release, the group, having 54 members including former civil servants Salahuddin



Ahmad, Shafi Alam and K Saleem Ali, said, the group expected that he will make efforts not to permit business considerations to demoralise the minorities and undermine the secular and democratic basis of the Constitution.

Noting that the group is apo-

litical and believes in being committed to the Constitution, they said certain actions by Facebook "have thrown into danger some of the fundamental rights of the people of India".

"Given a clear definition in your own policy, we are surprised that Facebook did not take action against some clear and serial offenders in India. What is striking about Facebook's leniency towards these persons is that all of them happen to be members of the political party in power," the letter read.

Changing visa norms will hurt India in long run: Global Times

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

DAYS after India said it was tightening visa norms for the Chinese, Beijing on Monday said that the move is a political gesture that extends from the anti-China sentiment following the tension along the LAC.

"The actions may not bring about any actual impact at the moment since Chinese visitors tend to shun corona-ravaged places such as India as its case-load tops three million. But in the long run, such short-sighted policies will definitely dampen Chinese desire to visit or invest in India," an article in the Chinese Communist Party mouthpiece, The Global Times, said quoting Chinese experts.

New Delhi on Saturday had

said that visas for Chinese nationals — businessmen, students, advocacy groups and others — must be issued only after prior security clearance.

The move comes close on the heels of India banning 59 Chinese apps following the violent face-off between troops in Galwan Valley along the LAC. India had subsequently also said it was reviewing MoUs signed between Indian and Chinese universities and also the Confucius Institutes.

Officials of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade in India said that they had no information regarding the proposed new rules and visas currently remain suspended due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

'China doesn't need alliance to tackle India'

NEW DELHI: RESPONDING to India's reaction to China and Pakistan mentioning Kashmir in their joint statement following the foreign ministers' meeting, Beijing on Monday said that India has misinterpreted the remarks.

"India may see the dialogue between China and Pakistan as a strategic alliance targeting India. However, based on China's current stance in South Asia, China hopes to deal with its frictions with India bilaterally. There is no need for China to build such an 'alliance.' China has sufficient capability, and leverage to deal with India on its own," an article in The Global Times, said. ENS

2 lakh migrants added to election rolls in Bihar

More voters to be enrolled as 25 lakh migrants returned to state

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

NAMES of at least two lakh migrant workers who had returned to Bihar following lockdown post-Covid-19 have been added to the electoral rolls to enable them to vote for the Bihar Assembly polls due later this year.

State poll officials said special camps would soon be organised in all districts to include more migrants in the rolls. Bihar Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) HR Srinivasa, who reviewed poll preparations on Monday, directed district magistrates of all 38 districts to hold special camps again to add the eligible voters to the rolls on a priority basis.

He directed the DMs through videoconferencing to arrange spacious places for counting of votes and also strong room facilities for keeping the votes in safely. The DMs were told to ensure compliance of the Election Commission guidelines amid the Covid-19 outbreak.

Official sources said more than 25 lakh migrant labourers and others had returned from across the country by Shramik Special trains and other modes during the lockdown. Most of them had returned after a long time and their names could not be added to the electoral rolls. Special camps are now being held in almost all districts to add such eligible voters.

"The names of around 70% eligible left-out migrant labourers have already been added to the rolls. More camps will be organised for such voters", said Deputy Election Officer Baijunath Singh. He said the number of polling booths had also been increased from 72,000 to 1.06 lakh to ensure social distancing on polling days. Singh said the number of women polling personnel would be up due to the increase in the number of polling booths.

UTTARAKHAND

BJP MLA's suspension revoked

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

THE BJP in Uttarakhand on Monday revoked the suspension of its controversial MLA Kunwar Pranav Singh 'Champion', who had described country's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru as "characterless".

He was suspended from the party in June last year on charges of breach of party discipline after a video surfaced in which he was seen dancing with guns in hand to popular Bollywood songs. He had also allegedly threatened a journalist. Soon after his suspension was revoked, Champion said he worked for the BJP even during the period when he was suspended from the party.

"I am thankful to the party, all seniors and everyone who supported me. I regretted my actions and will not repeat them in future. It feels like Lord Rama coming back from exile," said the BJP MLA from Khanpur Assembly constituency. He was welcomed at a small ceremony in the presence of state BJP chief Bansidhar Bhagat.



Lakhs of migrants returned home by Shramik Special trains during lockdown | PTI

PM-CARES to fund 2 Covid hospitals in poll-bound state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

IN the face of rising Covid-19 cases in the poll-bound Bihar, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Monday announced that two makeshift hospitals in Patna and Muzaffarpur will be funded through the PM-CARES Fund. The Bihar Assembly elections is scheduled to be held later this year.

The PMO, in a series of tweets, stated that the PM-Cares Fund Trust has decided to allocate funds for the fight against Covid-19 by way of establishment of 500-bed makeshift hospitals in Patna and Muzaffarpur by the DRDO.

"This will go a long way in improving the Covid-19 care in Bihar: The 500-bed hospital at Bihta, Patna will be inaugurated on Monday and the 500 bed hospital at Muzaffarpur will be inaugurated very

soon," tweeted the PMO.

It further stated that the two hospitals will have 125 ICU beds with ventilators and 375 normal beds each.

"Each bed also has oxygen supply. The doctors and paramedical staff will be provided by the Armed Forces Medical Services," the PMO added.

The Bihar health department on Monday said the state reported a fresh 1,227 positive cases, while there are 24,318 active cases. The government had earlier stated that over 50,000 ventilators had been procured from the PM Cares Fund. The Centre is sharing the ventilators with the states to deal with the rising Covid-19 cases.

The government had also stated earlier that about ₹1,000 crore were given to the states to reach out assistance to the migrants during the lockdown.



EC shared pics and addresses of Delhiites with police, says activist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Election Commission of India shared photos and addresses of voters from North-East Delhi with the Delhi police after the February riots, alleged RTI activist Saket Gokhale.

Citing a letter from the Election Commission of India to the Chief Election Officer of Delhi dated March 12, Gokhale said the entire voter list, with photos was handed over "illegally" to the Delhi Police to enable the identification of suspects.

The letter from the ECI to the Delhi CEO stated, "I am directed to refer to your letter No

F.2.(12/CEO/ER/ 2012351 dated 06.03.2020, on the subject cited, and to state that the electoral database of entire AC/District should not be shared with the Police Authorities in accordance with the Commission's prevailing policy."

The same letter, shared on Twitter by Gokhale, noted that the Commission, "keeping in view a request from the Delhi Police for photographs of electors, as available in the electoral roll of the North-East Shahdara and East Delhi Districts, to be matched with the photographs of culprits captured through CCTV, has directed to advise CEO Delhi to display the electoral roll along

with images of electors of North-East Parliamentary Constituency."

Gokhale wrote on Twitter that, "The 1st line of the order itself admits that voter lists shared with the police CAN NOT contain photos. ECI broke these rules & made these full voter lists WITH PHOTOS available to police."

Reacting to Gokhale's charge, the poll panel said, "It is hereby clarified in view of the anecdotal reports which are not based on empirical facts that the Commission has not in any way deviated from the original guidelines of 2008 and clarificatory orders of 2020 in any manner."

cardiologists, nephrologists, chest physicians, gynaecologists and paediatricians to get themselves registered for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, under which the incentive will be provided.

Additional chief secretary Medical and Health Amit Mohan Prasad gave instructions to the health department to ensure better treatment facilities for Covid-19 patients.

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

The Uttar Pradesh government has prepared a new strategy to make the 'corona warriors' secure by insuring them and incentivising their services.

The government has announced a life insurance scheme under which an incentive of ₹75,000 will be given to the doctors.

It has asked anaesthetics,

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GUWAHATI DIARY

Zoo animals get respite from heat

Animals at the Assam State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden, widely known as Guwahati Zoo, have got some respite from the scorching heat after the zoo authorities came to their rescue. Divisional Forest Officer Tejas Mariswamy, who is attached to the zoo, said they had installed air conditioners at the zoo hospital for animals, fans outside cages and water cooling facilities at the pools to help the animals beat the heat. The Guwahati Zoo has some natural water bodies where animals, particularly elephants, are taken to when the mercury rises. Established in 1957 and spread across 432 acres of land, the Guwahati Zoo is the largest of its kind in the Northeast.

PDP meet off until Mehbooba's release

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

A meeting of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leaders, scheduled for Monday, was cancelled as differences persisted in the party over the role of **Muzaffar Hussain Baig**, who had blamed provocative speeches of mainstream leaders for Article 370 revocation.

The next meeting would be held only after party chief Mehbooba Mufti is released from detention, party sources said.

The PDP had called the meeting at the Baig's residence, where party leaders, who were under detention and released and unofficially placed under house arrest, were invited for the meeting. Sources said most PDP leaders objected to meeting being held at Baig's residence and none of them turned up, prompting the party to cancel it.

"Party leaders are angry over Baig's anti-party stance and his negative role after the revocation of J&K's special status and bifurcation of J&K on August 5 last year. Baig had blamed provocative speeches of party chief Mehbooba Mufti and other mainstream leaders for the revocation and had told a party meeting in Jammu that it should now move beyond Article 370," said a PDP leader.

Most party leaders criticized Baig's role post Article 370 revocation.

Baig had also said Article 370 could not be restored, urging parties to instead seek Article 371-like guarantees.

The PDP, however, downplayed differences in the party,

saying the meeting was cancelled after the government did not allow it. PDP secretary Abdul Hamid Kohshien said they had sought permission from the authorities, but the government refused.

PDP leader Waheed Rehman Parra said he and many other party leaders are under house arrest and they were not allowed to leave homes to attend any meeting. He said the party was considering moving the court to challenge such detentions.

Kohshien said the party has decided that the next meeting would be convened after the release of party president Mehbooba Mufti.

Mehbooba is the only mainstream leader still under detention under Public Safety Act.



Killed the missing panch: Militants

Srinagar: Militants in an audio message have claimed to have killed a panch of Khunmoh area on the outskirts of Srinagar and buried his body at an undisclosed place. He has been missing since August 9.

A purported audio clip of a militant has gone viral on social media in which the militant claims that the abducted panch (Nisar Ahmad Bhat) has been killed by them.

The militant added that the body could not be handed over to the family of the deceased due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The police said they are checking the authenticity of the clip, adding that they and security forces have launched a search operation. **ENS**

1 dead, 51 missing as Maha building collapses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

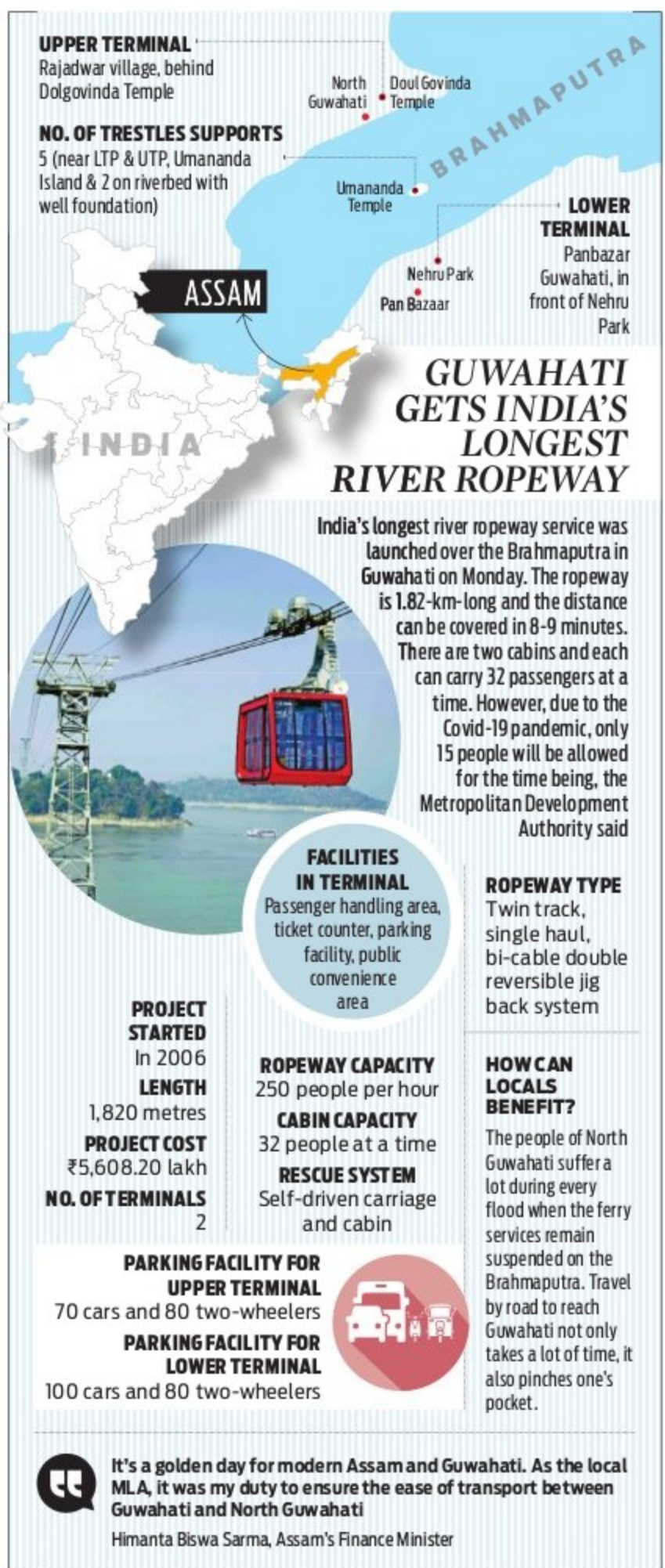
A man was killed after a five-storeyed residential building collapsed in Maharashtra's Raigad district on Monday.

Seven people have been rescued from the debris, while 51 are missing, an official at the Mantralaya State Control Room of the State Disaster

Management Unit said.

The Tarek Garden building, which was around 10 years' old, collapsed at Kajalpura in Mahad tehsil around 7 pm, the official said. There were around 40 flats in the building, the official said, adding those rescued were shifted to a local hospital at Mahad, which is around 170 km from Mumbai.

Teams of the NDRF were moved to the spot for rescue operations. Rescue teams and canine squads were deployed at the scene of the collapse, an NDRF official said. CM Udhav Thackeray spoke to the district officials and asked them to expedite the rescue and relief work, another official said. **With PTI inputs**



Tribal woman raped in Bengal after she fails to pay fine of ₹50K

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kolkata

A tribal woman living in a Birbhum district village was allegedly gangraped after she failed to shell out ₹50,000 "penalty" as prescribed by a kangaroo court for her relationship with a man belonging to a non-tribal community.

The woman and her lover were caught when they were returning from a local market and were kept confined in a local club where the two were assaulted before the kangaroo court was organised.

In her complaint to the police, the woman alleged she was dragged behind the club where five men gangraped her. Though the incident took place on August 18, the victim could not muster courage to visit the local police station to lodge a complaint. A local leader of the tribals' social wing took the woman to the police and the news of the gangrape surfaced on Sunday.

The police have arrested seven persons, including the tribal head of the village. The accused were remanded in police custody for seven days.

The police said the woman's husband died a few years ago and she, a mother of two, developed a relationship with a man living in the same area who doesn't belong to the tribal community. "The local tribals were against the relationship and the incident appears to be a fallout of it," said a police officer.

In the complaint with Mohammad Bazar police station, the woman said: "The group of men took us to the local club where we were assaulted. I was told to pay a penalty of ₹50,000 which was not possible for me. We were released the next morning."



Actor makes a comeback to BJP

Months after quitting BJP, actor Jatin Bora has returned to the party. He had left in December last year during the height of protests against the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act that had kept Assam on the edge. Bora said his decision to quit the BJP was an emotional decision and added that it was a mistake. The actor, who had first joined the party in 2015, apologised to BJP's state leadership, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, and party stalwart Himanta Biswa Sarma for quitting the party. The anti-CAA protests in Assam had turned violent in December last year.



Guwahati among dirtiest cities

Guwahati is among the dirtiest cities of India in the category of cities with a population of or under 10 lakh. It was placed at 356th out of 382 cities, according to the Swachh Survekshan 2020, the results of which were declared recently. However, there was good news in the survey for the state as well. Jorhat in upper



Assam was declared the cleanest city in the category of cities with a population of 50,000 to 1 lakh. The Northeast as a whole fared very poorly in the survey. Meghalaya capital Shillong, Nagaland's commercial hub Dimapur and Arunachal Pradesh capital Itanagar figured in the top 10 dirtiest cities. Itanagar was ranked 7th among the country's ten dirtiest cities in its category.

Actor Akshay Kumar donates for flood relief

Actor Akshay Kumar won many hearts for standing with Assam while the state was battling devastating floods. The Bollywood superstar donated ₹1 crore for flood relief in the state. Last year, he had contributed ₹2 crore for the same cause. Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has hailed the actor's generosity. "Thank you Akshay Kumarji for your kind contribution of Rs 1 crore towards Assam flood relief. You have always shown sympathy and support during the periods of crisis. As a true friend of Assam, may God shower all blessings to you to carry your glory in the global arena!" Sonowal said. Altogether 113 people had lost their lives in the deluge.



(File image) Alexei Navalny poses in his office in Moscow, Russia | AP

Navalny 'fairly likely' to have been poisoned, say Berlin docs

BERLIN

THE German government said on Monday that it was "fairly likely" that leading Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny, who is being treated in a Berlin hospital, was poisoned.

The 44-year-old was brought to the German capital on Saturday from Siberia, where he went into a coma after falling ill on a flight with what Russian doctors have blamed on a metabolic disorder.

"We are dealing with a patient who it is fairly likely was poisoned," Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters.

The Kremlin critic and anti-corruption campaigner, Russia's best-known opposition figure, was rushed into intensive care on Thursday after his plane made an emergency landing in the Siberian city of Omsk. His supporters have said they believe Navalny was poisoned with something in his cup of tea at the airport, pointing the finger of blame at President Vladimir Putin.

The Omsk regional health ministry has said that caffeine and alcohol were found in Navalny's urine, but "no convulsive or synthetic poisons were detected".

Navalny's team last week submitted a request in Russia to launch a criminal probe, but as of Monday, Russia's Investigative Committee still has not opened a case, Navalny's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said.

Ilya Yashin, an opposition politician in Moscow and a close ally of Navalny, in a video urged Russia's law enforcement to investigate "an attempt at a life of a public figure" and to look into the possible involvement of Putin. *Agencies*

GOP formally gives Trump a go-ahead for 2nd term

After Monday's renomination as Republican presidential candidate, he will give his acceptance speech from the White House on Thursday

CHARLOTTE

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has been renominated as the GOP's presidential candidate. Republicans made it official during a scaled-back roll call vote on Monday at the Charlotte Convention Center in North Carolina.

Trump faces a difficult fight for reelection as he continues to deal with the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed about 1,77,000 people in the US, ravaged the economy and upended nearly all aspects of life. The president's bid for a second term also continues to be shadowed by protests throughout the nation over police brutality and racial injustice.

Now that delegates have completed the task of formally renominating Trump, much of the remaining convention

Don's ex-aide Kellyanne Conway to leave WH

WASHINGTON: Kellyanne Conway, one of President Donald Trump's most influential and longest serving advisers, announced on Sunday that she would be leaving the White House at the end of the month. Conway, Trump's campaign manager during the stretch run of the 2016 race, cited a need to spend time with her four children in her resignation



business will shift to the Washington, DC, area. Trump is scheduled to deliver his acceptance speech from the White House South Lawn on Thursday evening.

Democrats nominated former Vice President Joe Biden



as their presidential candidate at their all-virtual convention last week. The party has gathered 336 delegates for the roll call vote at a scaled-down convention kickoff in Charlotte, North Carolina, that begins a weeklong effort to convince

the American people that he deserves a second term.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, delegates are holding an in-person roll-call vote at the Charlotte Convention Center. Democrats, who held their convention last week,

Nikki Haley among star speakers at RNC



Washington: Nikki Haley, popular Indian-American Republican politician and former US envoy to the UN, will be among the star speakers on the first day of the RNC, according to a list released by the Trump campaign. The two-term Governor of South Carolina, is the only Indian-American leader to be featured in the list of RNC speakers *PTI*

chose to hold their roll call vote created a video montage from states across the country to avoid a large-scale gathering. Trump is trying to avoid becoming the first incumbent president since George HW Bush to lose his reelection bid.

The GOP convention is a crucial moment for Trump, who is trailing in national and battleground state polls and under intense pressure to turn the race around.

Melania Trump will speak on Tuesday from the Rose Garden, V-P Mike Pence will appear from Fort McHenry in Baltimore on Wednesday and Trump will deliver his marquee acceptance speech on Thursday from the South Lawn before a crowd of supporters — blurring the lines between governing and campaigning yet again.

The party is also approving a handful of new resolutions, including one that backs Columbus Day as a federal holiday and one that labels the Southern Poverty Law Center, which catalogs the country's hate groups, as a "radical organisation." *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

PAKISTAN

Taliban negotiators visit country to talk for Afghan peace

A Taliban political team arrived in Pakistan on Monday as efforts appear to be ramping up to get negotiations underway between the Afghan government and the insurgents. The Taliban delegation, led by their political chief Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, will discuss with Pakistan's leaders the "recent developments in Afghanistan's peace process," as well as "relaxation and facilitation of people's movement and trade between the two neighbouring countries," tweeted Suhail Shaheen, the spokesman for the Taliban political office

China launches warship for Pak Navy

China has launched first of the four advanced naval warships it is building for Pakistan. The launching ceremony for the Type-054 class frigate was held at the Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard on Sunday

BANGLADESH

Internet ban on Rohingyas may be lifted soon

Bangladesh will restore internet access to nearly a million Rohingyas stuck in refugee camps "very soon", the government said on Monday, on the eve of the third anniversary of their escape from Myanmar. Authorities in Bangladesh cut mobile internet access to the sprawling, teeming camps in the country's southeast a year ago, citing security concerns, sparking international condemnation. Foreign Secretary Masud bin Momen said on Monday that the spread of "baseless rumours and misinformation" could create panic and destabilise the camps, where a few Rohingyas have been killed in internal clashes in recent years. The internet clampdown disrupted communications between different camps, as well as with Rohingyas still in Myanmar and elsewhere. It also complicated wire transfers of money from the Rohingyas diaspora

INDONESIA

Workers block access to giant gold mine over family visits

More than 1,000 Indonesian workers blocked access to the world's biggest gold mine on Monday in protest at a company move to shut down visits to their families over virus concerns. The miners demonstrated at the main entrance to the Grasberg complex — also a major copper mine — in Indonesia's Papua region, as the workers and US-based operator Freeport held talks. The protest, which started on Monday morning, came in response to a company decision to cancel bus services to the city of Timika in response to fears about the spread of coronavirus infections. Freeport's spokesman said the company was "studying" the workers' demands

US cops shoot man in front of his children

KENOSHA

PROTESTERS set cars on fire, smashed windows and clashed with officers in riot gear after Kenosha police shot and wounded a Black man, apparently in the back, while responding to a call about a domestic dispute.

Democratic Governor Tony Evers promptly condemned the shooting on Sunday of 29-year-old Jacob Blake, who was hospitalised in serious condition after he was gunned down in front of his three children as he leaned over into his SUV.

Police in the former auto manufacturing centre of 1,00,000 people midway between Milwaukee and Chicago did not immediately disclose the race of the three officers at the scene or say whether Blake was armed, and they released no details on the domestic dispute.

The officers were placed on administrative leave, standard practice in a shooting by police, while the state Justice

Department investigates.

The shooting happened at around 5 pm local time and was captured from across the street on cellphone video that was posted online.

In the footage, Blake walks from the sidewalk around the front of his SUV to his driver-side door as officers follow him with their guns pointed and shout at him. As Blake opens the door and leans

into the SUV, an officer grabs his shirt from behind and opens fire while Blake has his back turned. Seven shots can be heard, though it isn't clear how many struck Blake or how many of the officers fired.

Laquisha Booker, who is Blake's partner, told NBC's Milwaukee affiliate, *WTMJ-TV*, that her and Blake's three children were in the back seat of the SUV when police shot him. "That man just literally grabbed him by his shirt and looked the other way and was just shooting him. With the kids in the back screaming. Screaming," Booker said. *AP*



Belarus Prez Alexander Lukashenko armed with a Kalashnikov-type rifle near the Palace of Independence in Minsk on Sunday | AP

3 opposition activists detained in Belarus

MINSK

BELARUSIAN authorities on Monday detained three leading opposition activists who have helped spearhead a wave of protests demanding the resignation of the country's authoritarian president of 26 years following his reelection that opponents say was rigged.

The Coordination Council established by the opposition to negotiate a transfer of power said police detained members Sergei Dylevsky and Olga Kovalkova in Belarus' capital, Minsk. Later in the day, the opposition also reported the detention of Alexander Lavrinovich, the leader of striking workers at a major industrial plant.

Dylevsky played a leading role in organising a strike at the Minsk Tractor Plant, one of the multiple labour actions launched at the nation's top industrial plants last week in support of the protests and in a major challenge to Lukashenko.

Kovalkova is a top associate of the main opposition challenger in the disputed Aug. 9 presidential election, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who moved to Lithuania after the vote under official pressure. Lavrinovich led the strike organizing committee at another major factory, the Minsk Wheeled Tow Truck Plant. *AP*

HK reports world's 1st Covid-19 reinfection

HONG KONG

RESEARCHERS from the University of Hong Kong have reported the first confirmed case of Covid-19 reinfection on Monday.

A 33-year-old man from Hong Kong who was first infected by SARS-CoV-2 in late March, contracted the disease four and a half months later. He contracted the virus again while travelling in Europe, the *New York Times* reported.

Researchers also say the genome sequencing revealed two different strains of the virus, making it the first proven case of reinfection.

However, the UN's health agency, the World Health Organization warned not to jump to conclusions based on the case of one patient.

The study which is expected to be published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, claims the man was admitted in hospital for 14 days before recovering from the virus. However, the man tested positive for the virus a second time — despite having no further symptoms — after



a saliva test during airport screening.

The new findings may complicate efforts to lift quarantine restrictions and to produce a vaccine.

There were reports of reinfections in some countries in the past, but the test results turned out to be 'false positives'.

Top disease experts are unclear how often people can become reinfected.

"This is a very rare example of reinfection and it should not negate the global drive to develop Covid-19 vaccines," said Brendan Wren from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. *ENS*

WHAT ARE THEY?

Also called climate bonds, green bond is a type of fixed-income instrument that is specifically earmarked to raise money for climate and environmental projects

These bonds are typically asset-linked and backed by the issuing entity's balance sheet, so they usually carry the same credit rating as the issuers' other debt obligations, according to *Investopedia*



Green federal bonds create a clear incentive. In this way, we are showing how green and climate-friendly economic activities can be made transparent and predictable

Rita Schwarzeluehr-Sutter, parliamentary state secretary for environment

Germany to fund eco-friendly projects through green bonds

Germany on Monday announced details of its first "green" bond placing, tapping financial markets to fund environmental projects for the first time. We take a look



€11 billion

would be raised by the finance ministry in 2020 to support climate-related projects

The first issue in September of a 10-year bond, or Bund, will have a minimum of four billion euros in volume

EFFORTS TO REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT

■ The German government announced late last year that it would launch the bonds in the second half of 2020 as part of its efforts to combat climate change

■ The country earmarked 54 billion euros in spending to 2023 as part of a climate package that includes introducing a carbon tax to cut greenhouse gases by 55% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels

TWIN BONDS

The green bonds will be "twin bonds", issued alongside conventional federal bonds with the same maturity and coupon

This means investors will be able to swap their bonds from one variant to the other, with the aim of making them more attractive to investors

2.85%

of global bond issuance in 2019 (or around \$205 billion) are Green bonds, according to the European Central Bank

Half of green bonds issued worldwide last year were in euros, the ECB said

NEW NORMAL

Boris urges parents to let children go back to school

LONDON

Britain's prime minister is asking parents to set aside their fears and send their children back to school next month when schools in Britain fully reopen for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic shut then down more than five months ago.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said it was the government's "moral duty" to reopen the schools as he stressed that authorities now know more about Covid-19 than they did when the country went into lockdown on March 23.

His comments came hours after UK's top public health officials issued a joint statement saying that children were more likely to be harmed by staying away from school than from being exposed to Covid-19.

"This is why it's vitally important that we get our children back into the classroom to learn and to be with their friends," Johnson said in a statement released on Sunday. "Nothing will have a greater effect on the life chances of our children than returning to school."

The statements come as parents and teachers have express



(File image) UK's PM Boris Johnson during a visit to The Discovery School in West Malling, England | AP

concerns about reopening schools amid fears that social distancing measures won't keep children safe.

Unions have demanded that Johnson's Conservative government make sure that social distancing measures and other protective procedures are in place to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Schools across the UK closed in March as the government sought to control the spread of coronavirus. Some students were allowed to return in early June, but classes weren't mandatory and about 18 per cent of students nationwide took part.

The chief medical officers of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales said in their statement that children are less likely to catch Covid-19 than adults and they have "an exceptionally low risk" of dying from the disease.

By contrast, they said studies show that not going to school limits children's ability to succeed in life and may worsen physical and mental health problems.

"Very few, if any, children or teenagers will come to long-term harm from Covid-19 due solely to attending school," the medical officers said. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Tit-for-tat: Russia expels Austrian diplomat

MOSCOW: Moscow on Monday said it was expelling an Austrian diplomat in response to Vienna's expulsion of a Russian reported to be involved in economic espionage. "Based on the principle of reciprocity, a diplomat with the Austrian embassy in Russia has been declared persona non grata," the foreign ministry said in a statement after summoning the Austrian ambassador in Moscow. Vienna earlier confirmed it was expelling a Russian diplomat after media reported he had spied with the help of an Austrian citizen at a high-tech enterprise for years. *AFP*

India's potential growth may have shrunk below 6%

Economists say it may take at least three to five years to regain seven per cent levels

SUNITHA NATTI

NEXT week, the government will release GDP data that one would rather not see.

We've been forewarned about the devastating 16-25 per cent de-growth of the quarter gone by, so that's not the real worry. Trouble is, India's potential GDP, unhelpfully, is being reduced to a rump with economists pegging it to have slowed to 6 per cent already.

Potential GDP is the level of output an economy can crank out under low and stable inflation and is different from the annual growth projection.

Until recently, India's medium-term potential growth was 7-8 per cent, but according to Tanvee Gupta Jain, Economist, UBS Securities, it's now expected to trend lower at 5.75-6.25 per cent, but still compares favourably with other emerging markets such as Brazil (2.0-2.5 per cent), Russia (1.5-2 per cent), Indonesia (5.2-5.6 per cent), and China (5.5-6 per cent).

But none can blame all our economic misfortunes on the pandemic-led disruption as our growth woes were intensified partly due to inherent problems such as the financial sector mess and stress among households amid reduced income levels. Together, they affected consumption and fixed investment constituting 60 and 27 per cent of GDP respectively.

For instance, as Gupta explains, households' balance sheet deteriorated as they funded consumption taking higher leverage, which shot up an estimated 23 per cent of personal disposable income in FY20 from 16 per cent in FY12

and dipping into their savings that down to 17 per cent of GDP in FY20 from 24 per cent of GDP in FY12. The bottomline is, the spillover effect will likely stretch a few years at least and that's bad news for potential growth prospects.

That said, 7 per cent growth remains on the horizon provided investments and productivity gain ground, if India integrates into the global supply chain and if the government changes its focus from repair to growth by undertaking more growth-supportive reforms such as the recent corporate tax rate cuts. That's because, estimates of potential growth are influenced by government policy and reforms. So, Gupta believes that given the fiscal constraints and sluggish investment cycle, boosting growth beyond six per cent without improving potential growth over the next 3-5 years will entail widening of macro stability risks (inflation, current account deficit, and fiscal deficit) and is unsustainable.

Meanwhile, though economists are certain about Q1 growth contraction, they don't tell us if April-June was the kitchen sink quarter, where all bad news gets out once and for all, or if we'll have more such quarters during the fiscal. Unlike April and May that saw total lockdown, the economy has been gradually opening up, which means, growth in subsequent quarters is unlikely to be as disappointing as Q1.

Still, the first quarter loss in national output is so large that even if we do better later, the full fiscal will likely see the economy contracting by at least six per cent.

States stare at ₹3 L cr revenue shortfall in FY21

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Centre must provide urgent financial support to states which are likely to see a decline of ₹3 lakh crore in their tax revenue as only eight states fulfill criteria for availing extended market borrowing, according to SBI Ecwrap.

"The pandemic has created a massive disruption in state finances. The states are likely to witness a decline of ₹3 lakh crore in Own Tax Revenue. A very basic assumption of loss

of an entire month's revenue in components like State VAT, excise, stamps and registration will bring down the revenue for Q1 FY21 at around ₹53,000 crore," the report said.

It added that besides a dip in revenue share, increased expenditure would further dent the collection taking it up to ₹6.2 lakh crore for major states. "Combining this estimate with the loss in SGST estimate in Q1 shows that major states are going to loss around ₹1.2 lakh crore in the

first quarter itself, translating into an annual ₹3 lakh crore loss. We estimate an additional ₹1.5 lakh crore revenue loss from Centre," it noted.

And even when the centre has increased the borrowing limit, with some riders, only few states will be able to avail this facility. "The centre has decided to accede to the request of the states and in-

crease borrowing limits of states giving extra resources of ₹4.28 lakh crore. Our research suggests that only 8 states are in position to fulfill all the conditions of government and can avail two per cent of GSDP as extra borrowing," the report added.

Offering its solution, the SBI Research said that the Centre has the option to directly

transfer the combined full amount of ₹54,000 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRMF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Further, the government may transfer at least half of the remaining ₹2.5 lakh crores through a further hike in Ways and Means Advances limits, supporting additional borrowing of states through Open Market Operations by RBI, and relaxing some of the conditional ties associated with borrowing.

Our research suggests that only eight states are in position to fulfill all the conditions of government and can avail two per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) as extra borrowing... — SBI Ecwrap

Govt should cancel licenses if dues not paid: SC

JONATHAN ANANDA @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday reserved its judgement on the plea by telecom firms seeking a staggered payment schedule for their massive AGR dues, most of which remains unpaid. The day's proceedings also saw the bench make a crucial observation: If spectrum trading guidelines mandate the clearing of dues before such transactions, then the government should cancel spectrum licenses where statutory dues have not been paid; these could then be auctioned off—possibly for a higher value.

In its submission to the bench of Justices Arun Mishra, S Abdul Nazeer, and

M R Shah, the Department of Telecom (DoT) had said that spectrum trading guidelines require the seller to satisfy all pending dues before the sale of spectrum. They also allow the DoT to seek dues on any revenues from such spectrum from both the seller and buyer, "jointly or severally".

"If telcos are unwilling to pay, we will direct cancellation of spectrum allocation. How else is DoT supposed to deal with such an issue?" the bench asked. If the bench

decides in this direction in its final order, Bharti Airtel is set to get stuck with additional AGR liability due to its takeover of bankrupt Aircel's and Videocon Communications' spectrum licenses. Videocon owes ₹1,376 crore, while Airtel owes a whopping ₹12,289 crore. If Airtel does not pay up, it will lose a large portion of its spectrum resources and may have to bid for the same through a DoT auction.

As for Reliance Jio, which shares over 30 per cent of

bankrupt Reliance Communications' (RCom) spectrum, it had told the court earlier that it was willing to pay any dues arising from its use of the same, but that it would not pay any of RCom's dues. Even in this case, Jio may still end up losing these assets, though.

The court has expressed strong reservations about the sale of spectrum through the IBC process, noting that the new holder will end up with no encumbrances and AGR dues would be wiped out. The bench said it will clarify whether there will be any additional liability for Jio and Airtel in its final order. This is likely to come before September 2, which is the day Justice Arun Mishra will retire.



About 5-6% of loan book may be in for recast, says PNB MD

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE country's second largest lender Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Monday said it expects to restructure loans worth about ₹40,000 crore or about 5-6 per cent of the credit book, as per the Reserve Bank-approved guidelines, scheduled to be out soon. The central bank had allowed one-time restructuring of corporate and personal loans to help entities amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Our total loan book is ₹7.21 lakh crore at June end. MSME (loan book) stands at ₹1.27 lakh crore. Out of this, 14 per cent is under NPA. Now with respect to the book that we are looking at (for loan restructuring), a rough estimate what we are seeing is that anything around 5-6 per cent of the credit book may be eligible under the restructuring profile," said PNB Managing Director and CEO S S Mallikarjuna Rao, adding a major composition of this — about 50 per cent — would be corporate books.

Joining the long list of lenders raising money from the market, PNB said it intends to raise funds through qualified institutional placement (QIP) by the end of the quarter-ended December or during January-March period and does not envisage approaching the government for capital support.

"We have already taken the approval from the board for taking roughly around ₹14,000 crore. The ₹14,000 crore comprises ₹7,000 crore for equity, ₹3,000 crore for tier 2 bonds... we are very confident of going to the market...probably by end of Q2-Q3 will be working on it," Rao further added.

IN THE OFFING

Adanis close to acquiring GVK's stake in Mumbai airport

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ADANI Group may soon acquire its long-eyed stake in the country's second busiest airport—Mumbai International Airport (MIAL). Multiple reports suggest that preliminary talks have begun between Adani and debt-laden GVK Group, which owns 50.5 per cent stake in MIAL, to end the dispute with the former acquiring a controlling 51 per cent stake in the airport. On the other hand, the proposed deal may lead to GVK exiting the prestigious Mumbai airport venture, sources say.

Besides GVK, the other stakeholders in the airport are Airports Authority of India (26%), South African companies Bidvest (13.5%) and Airports Company South Africa (10%). Adani Group had previously made attempts to buy the stakes of the South African companies but it was challenged legally by GVK. If the proposed deal with GVK is finalised, Adani may put the offer back on the table.

According to reports, a formal announcement is expected to be made in the coming weeks. The possible deal comes at a time when the GVK Group is charged for siphoning off funds totalling ₹705 crore and causing a loss of ₹310 crore to the exchequer.

"The deal, if falls through, will help GVK to solve their financial troubles that is coming from all sides. As for Adani, it will make them a formidable player in the industry," a senior aviation analyst said, requesting anonymity.

SoftBank in talks to buy 14.7% stake in e-learning start-up Unacademy

BISMAH MALIK @ Bengaluru

JAPANESE tech investment giant, SoftBank is likely to acquire a 14.7 per cent stake in the entrance test preparation platform — Unacademy.

The deal, which marks its first investment bet in India this year, will close in next few weeks and is being pegged at \$150 million (₹530 crore), according to multiple sources. The regulatory filings sourced from paper.vc by this publication showed that Unacademy has sought approval from its existing shareholders to issue a new class of Series F preference share in addition to 10 lakh equity shares.

It further revealed that SoftBank is likely to acquire the shares from some existing investors, resulting in their exit from the company. The proposed deal will also



bring Unacademy under the unicorn club of India with a valuation of \$1.2 billion.

Currently, Bengaluru headquartered Byjus is the only edtech firm in this club with a valuation of over \$10 billion. The onset of Covid-19 pandemic has led to a rush of investments in the edtech sector in India with schools and colleges shut throughout the country. Unacademy raised \$103.5 million (₹776 crore) in a Series E round led by PE firm, General Atlantic and social media giant,

Facebook and existing investor, Sequoia Capital at a valuation of \$510 million earlier this year.

With a surge in userbase and subscriptions, the equity share price of Unacademy according to the company financials, have soared from ₹49,068 in December, 2019 to ₹58,790 in May, 2020.

If the SoftBank's Unacademy investments follows its other high-stakes funding in the portfolio companies, some of the early investors of Unacademy will walk away with \$50-70 million. The early investors in the edtech platform include Flipkart co-founders, Sachin Bansal, Binny Bansal, Flipkart CEO, Kalyan Krishnamurthy and Paytm CEO, Viay Shekhar Sharma among others.

Last month, Unacademy announced acquisition of PrepLadder for \$50 million.

EXPRESS READ

TVS launches Jupiter ZX Disc variant

Chennai: TVS Motor Company on Monday launched the Jupiter ZX Disc variant with an upgraded electric start technology i-TOUCHstart. The technology provides a silent and instant ignition reducing cranking noise, making it ideal for repeated starts in stop-go traffic. The new iTOUCHstart is priced at ₹69,052 (ex-showroom, Delhi) and is available in Matte Blue, Starlight Blue and Royal Wine colours.

Average increment falls to 3.6% in 2020

New Delhi: Amidst reports of 1.89 crore workers losing their jobs since April, a fresh survey reveals that average increment in India fell from 8.6 per cent in 2019 to 3.6 per cent in 2020. This number is among the lowest in decades. According to the phase-2 of the 2020 Workforce and Increment Trends survey by Deloitte (DTTILLP), only about four of the ten surveyed firms have given an increment this year.

Nabard rolls out partial credit scheme for NBFCs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has rolled out a dedicated debt and credit guarantee programme for small microfinance NBFCs. The programme is aimed at ensuring a smooth flow of credit in rural areas in the midst of the disruption caused by the pandemic.

The development bank on Monday said that it has signed a pact with Vivriti Capital and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank in order to roll out the initiative. "The program will help facilitate ₹2,500 crore funding in the initial phase and is expected to be scaled up," said Nabard, adding it is expected to cover 1 million household.

"The partially guaranteed loan facility will catalyse much-needed financing to millions of households, agricultural and business markets to sustain in the post COVID-19 environment," G R Chintala, Chairman, NABARD said. The Pooled Loan Issuance (PLI) structure also provides the lending bank adequate comfort through the partial credit protection, reduces the cost of capital as the



Aims to cover more than one million households

The program will help facilitate ₹2,500 crore funding in the initial phase and is expected to be scaled up, said Nabard, adding it is expected to cover over one million households.

rating of the loans get notched up and helps lenders meet priority sector goals, the development bank noted.

The new structure is expected to pool together the risk of multiple borrowers and add a layer of partial first loss credit enhancement from a highly rated guarantor.

"With NABARD as a guarantor and a convincing product construct in place, the program has helped attract a large number of mainstream banks and small finance banks to participate," Nabard said in a release.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

KNR CONSTRUCTION

Current Price ₹264.1 Target Price ₹295

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of NIE

KNR has already monetized three of its HAM projects. We expect the balance sheet to strengthen further, with a net cash position of -INR4b by FY22E. The company has the best balance sheet position among midcap road EPC companies. We forecast revenue/EBITDA/PAT growth of 18%/12%/22%.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

SBIL holds virtual panel discussion

State Bank Institute of Leadership (SBIL), Kolkata, one of the apex training institutes of State Bank of India, has moved much of its events on leadership and related themes to virtual means, post pandemic. In its continuous effort to connect with all stakeholders, a virtual panel discussion on 'Re-imagining Organisational Responses to Covid-impacted Cultural Shock' was organised on August 21. Leaders from diverse sectors participated and shared their views.

Ashwani Singla takes over as CAO Revenue PSPCL

Ashwani Singla Jt. Financial Advisor has assumed charge as Chief Accounts officer Revenue, Punjab State Power Corporation limited (PSPCL). Singla joined PSPCL erstwhile PSEB as Revenue Accountant in January, 2000 before rising to this level. He played an important role in successful implementation of various initiatives like online systems of budgeting, disbursements and digital bill payments, among others, the company said in a release.



Karnataka Bank gets two additional directors

Private lender Karnataka Bank Ltd. has appointed Justice A V Chandrashekar and Pradeep Kumar Panja as Additional Directors. Justice A V Chandrashekar is a former judge of the High Court of Karnataka and also a former judicial member of Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal (K.S.A.T.). Pradeep Kumar Panja is a career banker, retired as managing director (corporate banking) of State Bank of India in October 2015. Currently, he is a member on the Board of Directors of companies engaged in the business of real estate, software, cements etc. Now, 72 per cent of the Board consists of Independent Directors.



Ministry of Skill Development, Ministry of Shipping ink MoU for skill development

To reap the benefit for vast employment opportunities in the port and maritime sector and with a view to certify their skill sets, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed digitally between the Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. As per the MoU, both ministries will cooperate in development of course curriculum, National Occupational Standards, content, etc. for Cruise Tourism, Logistics, Fisheries, Shipbuilding, etc.



CLW to support "FIT INDIA FREEDOM RUN"

"Fit India Freedom Run" is being organised by Chittaranjan Locomotive Works Sports Assn (CLWSA) from August 15 - October 2, 2020, under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Government of India and courtesy of the Ministry of Railways. The run will be attended by all CLW employees, their families, players and officials to remain physically fit and to increase immunity during the transition period of Covid-19.



Shiv Nadar University and IIT-Bombay on Monday announced that its researchers have created environment-friendly lithium-sulfur (Li-S) batteries. The research will aid the production of cost-effective, compact, energy-efficient, safe and environment-friendly Li-S batteries.

Plasma therapy experimental

WHO says treatment can cause numerous side effects, from mild fever to severe lung-related problems, in Covid patients

UNDER STUDY

GENEVA: The World Health Organization says using plasma from the recovered to treat Covid-19 is still considered an "experimental" therapy and that the preliminary results showing it may work are still "inconclusive."

President Donald Trump on Sunday approved an emergency authorization of convalescent plasma for Covid-19 patients. WHO's chief scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan said convalescent plasma therapy has been used in the last century to treat numerous infectious diseases, with varying levels of success. Swaminathan says WHO still considers convalescent plasma therapy to be experimental and said it should continue to be evaluated. She added that the treatment is difficult to standardise, since people produce different levels of antibodies and the plasma must be collected individually from recovered patients.

Swaminathan says that the studies have been small and provided "low-quality evidence." She says countries can "do an emergency listing if they feel the benefits outweigh the risks" but that that's "done when you're waiting for the more definitive evidence."

Dr Bruce Aylward, a senior adviser to WHO's director-general, said that convalescent

plasma therapy can come with numerous side effects, from a mild fever and chills to more severe lung-related injuries.

On Sunday, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said that over 70,000 patients in the country had been treated with convalescent plasma, which is made using the blood of people who have recovered from coronavirus infections.

Trump welcomed the move by the FDA on the eve of the four-day Republican National Convention. "Today I'm pleased to make a truly historic announcement in our battle against the China virus that will save countless lives," Trump said at a White House briefing, referring to the coronavirus that causes Covid-19.

"Today's action will dramatically increase access to this treatment," he said, a day after he accused the FDA of impeding the rollout of vaccines for political reasons.

In a tweet on Saturday, Trump said "the deep state, or whoever, at the FDA is making it very difficult for drug companies to get people in order to test the vaccines and therapeutics."

Based on scientific evidence available, the FDA concluded, that this product may be effective in treating Covid-19 and that "the potential benefits of the product outweigh the known and potential risks of the product."

Plasma therapy is difficult to standardise, since people produce different levels of antibodies and the plasma must be collected individually from recovered patients.

WHO

MARINE BEAST DECONSTRUCTED

Dolphin-like reptiles called ichthyosaurs were thought to pick off small, squishy prey. But a new fossil suggests they may have been early 'megapredators' which perished straight after eating a long reptile ...

ABOUT ICHTHYOSAURS

● Ichthyosaurs were a highly successful group of sea-going reptiles that became extinct around 90 million years ago.

● They appeared during the Triassic, reached their peak during the Jurassic, and disappeared during the Cretaceous period.

● Often misidentified as swimming dinosaurs, these reptiles appeared before the first dinosaurs had emerged.

● They evolved from an as-yet unidentified land reptile that moved back into the water.

EXFILE

LESSER KNOWN FACTS

The largest complete ichthyosaurus fossil ever discovered, at 11ft, was found to have a foetus still inside its womb.

Scientists said in August 2017 that the incomplete embryo was less than 2.7 inches long and consisted of preserved vertebrae, a forefin, ribs and a few other bones.

There was evidence the foetus was still developing in the womb when it died. Reptile gave birth to live young, unlike egg-laying dinosaurs.



INDIA CONNECT

A few isolated vertebrae, were found in Cauvery basin. A nearly-full skeleton of the Indian ichthyosaur was found by a paleontologist from Delhi University in Kutch in 2017. It lived between 152 & 157 million years ago.

WHERE WAS IT FOUND

The species, Guizhouichthyosaurus, a type of marine lizard was unearthed at a quarry in southwestern China in 2010 with the smaller thalattosaurus lizard in its stomach.



QUOTE

We always guessed from tooth shape and jaw design that these predators must have fed on large prey — but now we have direct evidence that they did. Our ichthyosaur's stomach contents weren't etched by stomach acid, so it must have died quite soon after ingesting this food item.

Co-author Professor Ryoosuke Motani



36
Scientists discovered that one species had a cruising speed of 36 km/h.

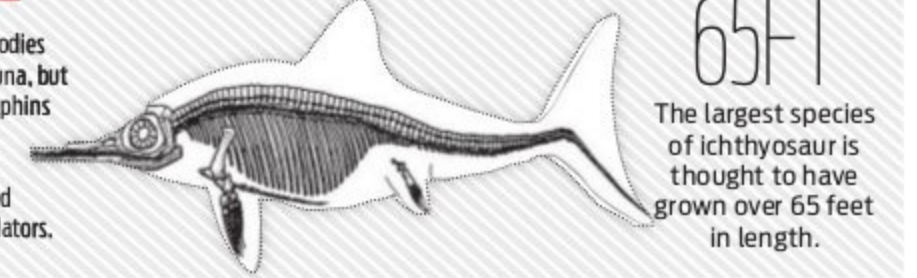
STUDY

Millions of years ago, a 15-foot long dolphin-like sea lizard gorged on a 12-foot reptile and its bones have been found in the remains of the reptile's stomach. The exact cause of death is unknown, according to a team from the University of California, but analysis reveals the predator died shortly after its enormous meal.

GIANT STRUCTURE

This prehistoric ichthyosaur had jaws powerful enough to rip the smaller marine lizard to pieces before eating it and researchers say 'it started in the middle'.

They had fish-like bodies similar to modern tuna, but breathed air like dolphins and whales and like modern great white sharks — it's believed they were apex predators.



65FT

The largest species of ichthyosaur is thought to have grown over 65 feet in length.

Massive wildfires at Northern California rage on, leave one dead



FATAL FLAME

SCOTTS VALLEY (US): Three massive wildfires chewed through Northern California landscape Sunday as firefighters raced to dig breaks and make other preparations ahead of a frightening weather system packing high winds and lightning that sparked blazes other fires around the state, putting nearly a quarter-million people under evacuation

orders and warnings.

At the CZU Lightning Complex fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains, south of San Francisco, authorities announced the discovery of the body of a 70-year-old man in a remote area called Last Chance.

The man had been reported missing and police had to use a helicopter to reach the area, which is a string of about 40 off-the-grid homes at the end of a windy, steep dirt road north

of the city of Santa Cruz.

The area was under an evacuation order and Santa Cruz Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Chris Clark said it was a stark reminder of the need for residents to leave the area.

"This is one of the darkest periods we've been in with this fire," he said. The fatality was the first for the CZU fire and seventh fire victim in the state in the last week that has seen 650 wildfires across California,

many of them sparked by the more than 12,000 lightning strikes recorded since August.

The Santa Cruz fire is one of three complexes, burning on all sides of the San Francisco Bay Area. All were started by lightning. Fire crew made progress during the weekend, which saw a welcome break in the unseasonably warm weather and little wind that allowed firefighters to increase what had been precious little containment.

Virus-hit resort turns pool into fish farm

ALTERNATIVE USE

KOCHI: A luxury resort in southern India has turned its swimming pool into a fish farm to stop the business sinking amid the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Normally the 150-metre pool at the Aveda Resort in Kerala

is packed with European tourists. Now thousands of pearl spot fish are causing the splash. The complex was forced to shut in March when a nationwide coronavirus lockdown was ordered. Few hotels have been allowed to reopen since.

Of those which are still shuttered, not many boast a

pool with 7.5 million litres of water, which can be put to alternative use. "We have had zero revenues, so in June, we put around 16,000 two-month-old pearl spot fish in the pool," Aveda's general manager Jyotish Surendran said.

The makeshift farm would not cover the losses from the pandemic, said the hotel boss.



GEARING UP FOR FESTIVE SEASON

Santas attend training at Southwark Cathedral in London, Monday, to keep the magic of the Christmas Grotto alive | AP

Covid a multi-organ metabolic disease

LONG-TERM EFFECT

MELBOURNE: Scientists have developed a predictive metabolic model for Covid-19 infection that shows multi-organ effects of the disease.

Researchers from Murdoch University in Australia and the University of Cambridge in the UK collected blood plasma specimens from a group of Covid-19 positive patients. They matched them with the samples of a control group of healthy age and body mass matched participants to determine the key metabolic differences between the groups.

The samples revealed a profound biological fingerprint of the disease that includes elements of liver dysfunction, dyslipidaemia, diabetes, and coronary heart disease risk, the researchers said.

These have all been found to be related to the long-term effects in patients that were affected by the original SARS virus, they said. These fingerprints mark systemic changes in biochemistry and are irrespective of the time of collection during the active disease

process and independent of the overall severity of respiratory symptoms, according to the researchers.

"Perhaps the most important observation is that the disease involves multiple organs and the majority of the patients show signs of newly presenting diabetes and liver damage irrespective of the severity of the lung symptoms," said Professor Jeremy Nicholson from Murdoch University.

"Many of the metabolic features that we pick up are not part of routine clinical chemical testing, and this has immediate patient management implications because these morbidities might be occurring under the radar of the current testing paradigms as they can be quite subtle," said Nicholson.

The researchers said these emergent pathologies need to be managed at the same time as the acute respiratory problems to optimise patient recovery. "What we do not know is how persistent these symptoms are or whether they change long terms disease risks for recovered patients," Nicholson said.



FACT OF THE MATTER

Realme adds 15 mn users



GROWING FAST

Smartphone brand Realme on Monday said it has added 15 million users in the first half of 2020 despite the challenges it faced due to the pandemic. Realme was one of the only two brands to have registered positive shipments growth in Q1 of this year, with 157 per cent increase year-over-year, according to data by Counterpoint Research. The other brand was Xiaomi which registered seven per cent year-over-year growth during the quarter. During Q2, Realme registered 11 per cent growth, becoming the fastest-growing brand in the quarter, according to a report by Counterpoint. Realme said it has emerged as one of the top four smartphone brands in India, Thailand, Cambodia.

New phone from OnePlus



LOW COST

After launching its first mid-range premium smartphone Nord that became a thumping success, OnePlus is now planning to unveil another device with Snapdragon 662 or 665 chip for a price tag between ₹16,000-₹18,000. While OPPO is expected to launch a phone with Snapdragon 662 chipset early September under ₹20,000, OnePlus will follow suit at the end of September with its own phone in similar range and specifications, reports GizmoChina. The Snapdragon 662 is an octacore chipset that sits barely below the Snapdragon 665 processor. OnePlus has also received certification for an 18W charger. The upcoming phone may come bundled with the new charger.

SHIFT IN FOCUS

Thousands allowed to bypass environmental rules in pandemic

REDUCED MONITORING

LONDON: Thousands of oil and gas operations, government facilities and other sites have won permission to stop monitoring for hazardous emissions or otherwise bypass rules intended to protect health and the environment because of the coronavirus outbreak, The AP has found.

The result: approval for less environmental monitoring at some Texas refineries and at an army depot dismantling warheads armed with nerve gas in Kentucky, manure piling up

and the mass disposal of livestock carcasses at farms in Iowa and Minnesota, and other increased risks to communities as governments eased enforcement over smokestacks, medical waste shipments, sewage plants, oilfields and chemical plants.

The Trump administration paved the way for the reduced monitoring March 26 after being pressured by the oil and gas industry, which said lockdowns and social distancing during the pandemic made it difficult to comply with pollution rules. States are responsible for much

of the oversight of federal environmental laws, and many followed with their own policies.

The two-month review found that waivers were granted in more than 3,000 cases, representing the majority of requests citing the outbreak. Hundreds were approved for oil and gas companies. AP reached out to all 50 states citing open-records laws; all but one, New York, provided at least partial information, reporting the data in differing ways and with varying level of detail.

Almost all those requesting waivers told regulators they



Oil and gas operations won permission to stop monitoring for hazardous emissions

wanted to minimise risks for workers and the public during a pandemic — although a handful reported they were trying to cut costs.

The Environmental Protection Agency says its clemency does not authorise exceeding pollution limits. Regulators will pursue those who "did not

act responsibly under the circumstances," EPA spokesman James Hewitt said in an email.

But environmentalists and public health experts say it may be impossible to determine the impact. "The harm from this policy is already done," said Cynthia Giles, former EPA assistant administrator.

EPA says it will end the clemency this month. The same day EPA announced its new policy, Marathon Petroleum asked Indiana for relief from leak detection, groundwater sampling, spill prevention, emissions

testing and hazardous waste responsibilities.

"We believe that by taking these measures, we can do our part to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus," Tim Peterkoski, Marathon's environmental auditing head, told Indiana.

Marathon also won permission to skip environmental tests at many of its refineries and gas stations in California, Michigan, North Dakota and Texas. Spokesman Jamal Khairy said Marathon continued emissions monitoring and other activities and usually met deadlines.



Life is beautiful, says
Pruthvi Ambaar

PG 4



DAY'S DIARY

Birth anniversary

Television talk-show host, game-show host, singer, and author, Regis Philbin was born on this day in 1931. He was a popular host on American and Canadian TV networks

MAKING HISTORY

He regaled America over morning coffee with Kathie Lee Gifford and Kelly Ripa for two decades. He went on to make television history in 1999 by introducing the runaway hit *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*



AWARDS

Philbin was nominated for 37 Daytime Emmy Awards throughout his career and won six. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008



DEATH

Philbin, whose career in TV spanned six decades, died on July 24, 2020 at age 88, of cardiovascular disease at a hospital in Connecticut

A NEW CHAPTER

Motherhood, launching new products and living through a pandemic... City-based illustrator Alicia Souza tells CE how she is juggling new roles



Some of my favourite observations, which I've included in the journal, are things like the calls of hawkers in the morning, and people checking out their reflections in a scooter mirror

— Alicia Souza, illustrator

• Simran Ahuja

Alicia Souza has always been a morning person. Fans would know, considering how Souza's doodles and artworks are often the first post on the Instagram feeds of many. And she seems to have passed this trait right on to her son – Oliver Theodore Seemon – who was born five weeks ago. "He is so calm and adorable in the mornings. It's a time full of smiles, eye contact and this daze of happiness he gets during bath time," the new mother tells CE. Mornings are now a close second to her other favourite parts of the day – "When he's sleeping," laughs the city-based illustrator, who has a following of over 3 lakh on Instagram. But motherhood in no way has led to work taking a backseat for Souza. The illustrator recently launched a new journal based on her hit Instagram series about en-

dearing things she has seen in India. Each page of the journal, available on her website, comes with a different illustration that highlights the quirks and eccentricities of the country, like the calls of hawkers in the morning, an autorickshaw pushing another one, people checking out their reflections in a scooter mirror, and so on. Besides this, she is busy with other collaborations, work on her annual yearly planner, some more products for her company, and launching a new brand – Auntie Alie – for a range of baby and kids goodies. And she has the perfect sampler for her new art work now. "I put out black and white animal cards on Oliver's dresser and it's nice to see how his eyes dart around each one of them. He's almost like my guinea pig, and since he has taken well to them, I'm excited to launch them as a product," she says. While there was a lot Souza knew to expect while expecting, other things did come as a sur-

prise. Like a global outbreak and having to take a Covid test before her delivery. "You can't really go out much with a newborn so being indoors is alright. But none of our friends have got to see Oliver beyond photographs. And I worry about how he will socialise and when things will get normal," admits Souza. These unexpected times, however, have also come with small blessings. With work from home being the new normal, Souza's husband, George, who is an architect, is also around a lot more. "It really worked in our favour. So many men miss out on the initial days of a baby because of work, but here George can really soak in time with Oliver," she adds. Her pets, a dog named Charlie and a guinea pig named Henry-oats, however, still need more time. "Oliver is too young now but I am hoping the three will get along like good siblings in the future," laughs Souza.



Alicia Souza (left), and illustrations made by her



Yes, just like in any other industry, there are camps here too, but to blame all the ills on nepotism is absurd

— Naseeruddin Shah



The idea of 'audience love' is a myth: Naseeruddin Shah

• Express Features

Few voices in Indian cinema command the widespread attention that Naseeruddin Shah gets. His no-holds-barred approach and the ability to speak his mind make him a rare original voice in cinema. "Too many people are miserable with the work they do. On that front, I consider myself lucky; and a lot of actors should feel that way too," said the actor in a chat sponsored by Airtel, and arranged as part of e-Expressions, a series of webinars organised by *The New Indian Express* group, and hosted by senior journalist Kaveree Bamzai.

Naseeruddin Shah took the digital plunge with Amazon Prime Video's *Bandish Bandits*. "This series is like an antidote for the content we see on the web these days. There is no violence, gratuitous sex scenes, cuss words... Being on the small screen isn't new to me. As an actor, my job remains the same irrespective of the medium," said the 70-year-old actor, who was also seen in the direct-to-OTT film, *Mee Raqsam* (Zee5), in which

he played an Islamic hardliner. "All characters are make-believe. You assume their skin and make it your own. I play each of my roles with the same conviction; the success or the lack of it lies in the writing," said the actor. After citing lack of originality and relentless promotion of mediocre talent as big problems in Hindi cinema, Naseer addressed the elephant in the room. "After the death of the young actor (Sushant Singh Ra-

there are camps here too, but to blame all the ills on nepotism is absurd."

This debate, it seems, is here to stay, and the resentment against film families and star kids appears to be growing. "These incidents should teach every actor that the idea of 'audience love' is a myth. They don't love us. They are there for the thrill. They don't care whether you live or die," said Naseeruddin, and went on to talk about how Aamir Khan's trip to Turkey for scouting shooting locations got backlash in India. "Someone with 25 followers on Twitter decides to teach Aamir Khan a lesson now. For all we know, he might have been an Aamir fan all his life. Look at the kind of abuse the Bachchans received for just falling ill. The trolling happened to the epitome of a gentleman, who has been worshipped by four generations."

As a veteran of this industry who has seen ups and downs, and one whose every word gets scrutinised, you can see why Naseeruddin feels this way. "Actors, no matter how much affection we receive, should not believe that the love we get is universal."



jput), it is like everyone has descended to the lowest possible level, in terms of backbiting and running down the other," said the *Ishqiya* actor, who found it worrisome that this was happening despite so many educated people joining the industry. "Many actors who are complaining about being cheated of a film here and there, are quite successful now and lead comfortable lives. What are they complaining about? Yes, just like in any other industry,

CITY READ

Special transport facilities for exam

Karnataka State Road Transport Corp. operated extra buses from main districts and taluks to Bengaluru, Davanagere, Mangaluru, Mysuru and Shivamogga, where preliminary exam for gazetted probationers was held by Karnataka Public Service Commission on Monday.



PLAN OF ACTION

IN STORE

Champaca, which created a buzz when it opened last year for their cozy space in the heart of the city, is still waiting it out before re-opening. "Right now, the challenge is to personalise and replicate our offerings in the online space," says Nirica Srinivasan, who is part of the bookstore team. "So, our theme for this year is translations. In the first week of the month we send across various works of translations into English, and in the last week we have created a book club where we discuss these works," she says. Aware that events of the past may not be held any time soon, the team launched an online store during this phase, and is brainstorming on interactive ways to engage with the audience.

• Vidya Iyengar

Abook in one hand, hot chocolate in the other, and a view of city from quiet spots in the bustling city was a luxury in pre-coronavirus days. But now, these cafe-cum-libraries which, over the last decade, gained prominence, are experimenting different ways to engage with the audience. Atta Galatta, where many prominent authors, including diplomat Pavan K Varma, launched their books, is bidding adieu to their space in Kormangala. At their new venue in Indiranagar, which is a hop-skip-and-jump away from the Metro station, co-founder Lakshmi Sankar hopes to re-create the same experience. "We had been on the lookout for a quaint place for a while, but the pandemic, in a way, did some good disruption," says Sankar, adding that this property is their own, which reduces the finances involved in run-

'Book'ing a fresh experience



(Top) Customers at Atta Galatta before the pandemic; co-founders Subodh (left) and Lakshmi Sankar

ning the bookstore. "The challenge has been to find a quaint place with a view without it being wedged amid high rises," she says. While the moving process has started, to ensure that the space resembles the former, as well as include



additions, they are hoping to be fully functional by early next year.

But to keep their audience engaged, Sankar had started online programmes, Insider-Outside, where Indian authors settled abroad are interviewed, as well as a show where audience can ask authors questions. "There is online fatigue, but we are trying to navigate through it. At this point, we need to figure out a new business plan, which would be a combination of events and experiments, to see what works," she says.

To keep themselves in currency – with the cafe and store closed owing to the lockdown – they decided to offer a 50 per cent discount, a first sale in eight years, on all their books. "We need to keep the circulation going. It might be the same set up, same hall, but the world outside has changed. So, we know that what worked before might not be viable now and need to plan accordingly," she says.

COVID CARE WORKPLACE SAFETY

- Try to interact online instead of having face-to-face meetings
- Open windows and doors of your workplace whenever possible to make sure the office is well ventilated
- Carry a disinfectant which you can spray on your desk
- Spend minimum time in common areas like the washroom and canteen
- Carry your own meals and water. Avoid sharing at these times
- Disinfect your hands and footwear at regular intervals
- Do not report to work if you experience any symptoms like fever or respiratory issues
- Keep your mask on at all times.
- If you test positive, inform colleagues who you may have come in contact with so they can take precautions
- Maintain social distancing. If your company has the option to work from home, you could consider it
- Avoid sharing equipment like phones, chargers and stationery items. If you use a colleague's workstation, disinfect it before use.
- Avoid using the lift, and handrails while using the stairs.

GRAPHIC: AMOL VYAVHARE

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN DURING THIS LOCKDOWN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

KARA CHUTNEY

INGREDIENTS

- Shallots: 20
- Garlic: 10 pods
- Red chillies: 10-15
- Tamarind paste: 1 tsp
- Curry leaves: 10

- Mustard: 1 spoon
- Urad dal: 1 spoon
- Sesame oil: 6-10 spoons
- Asafoetida as required
- Rock salt as required

METHOD

- Grind shallots, red chillies, garlic, tamarind paste and rock salt into a fine paste.
- In a pan, pour oil. Temper mustard, urad dal, curry leaves and asafoetida. Now, add the paste and cook well by stirring continuously.
- Cook till the oil separates the chutney.
- Serve with dosa or idly.

— Anu Rajagopal, Chennai

NATURE TALK

IMPROVISATION

Spontaneously making music. To emot through note, metre and song. An art practised in birds as in humans. Several bird species learn to sing by improvisation rather than imitation. And improvising is known to be one of the most complex forms of creative behaviours, requiring much more training than performing set pieces. Several birds can masterfully improvise, and is a necessary behaviour in their lives. This opens up deep questions on avian sentience and their need for artistic and creative expression. In birds, as in whales to bush-crickets and cicadas — song and speech lose distinction in so many organisms.

— M Yuvan

BRIGHT SPOT

PARIS'S CARE PACKAGES

Six-year-old Paris Williams is driven by a mission to help others who are less fortunate. So driven that she's launched her own nonprofit foundation, Paris Cares, to feed the homeless in her area. With the help of her parents, Paris assembled and delivered (via non-contact drop off) more than 500 care packages containing food and other essentials to downtown St. Louis's homeless, as well as handing out approximately 250 meals to essential workers. But she wasn't satisfied with simply donating goods. It was important to her to forge a bond with the people she was trying to help. After filling each package herself, Paris drew a picture or wrote a personal message on each one. She's looking to hold Thanksgiving hot-food drive for the homeless and also hopes to start a Christmas toy fund for kids in need.



Source: godnewsnetwork.org

SOUND BOARD

PHILOSOPHY FOR OUR TIMES

This is a free weekly philosophy podcast unpacking society, culture, politics, science and arts. It brings you the latest talks and debates from the world's leading thinkers.

On Google Podcast

LIFE KIT

Everyone needs a little help being a human. From sleep to saving money to parenting and more, this podcast talks to the experts. Life Kit is here to help you get it together.

On Google Podcast

THE EZRA KLEIN SHOW

American journalist Ezra Klein brings you far-reaching conversations about hard problems, big ideas, illuminating theories, and cutting-edge research.

On Stitcher

SUPERNATURAL WITH ASHLEY FLOWERS

Crime junkie Ashley Flowers dives deep into the strange and surreal to explain some of the world's most bizarre true crime occurrences. Every Wednesday, she digs into a different mystifying crime — where the most fitting theory isn't always the most conventional.

On Stitcher

GIRLS GOTTA EAT

Should you ditch the apps and meet people in the wild? How do you get over a break-up when you feel like you're going to die? Co-hosted by Ashley Hessestine and Rayna Greenberg, Girls Gotta Eat is a comedy podcast about dating, sex, and relationships.

On Apple Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

KENDASAMPIGE

Ravi, an attendant, has a love affair with Gowri, the daughter of the owner of his company. A set of events leads to him being jailed over a narcotic case. But he manages to flee with Gowri's help.

Cast: Vikky Varun, Manwitha Harish

YAARE KOOGADALI

Kumara and Natesha escape from a mental hospital and come to the city. They are soon chased by a gangster while their actual truth is revealed.

Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Bhavana

MYTHRI

Siddarama is one step away from winning a sum of ₹ one crore in a game show hosted by his favourite actor Puneeth Rajkumar. However, scientist Mahadev Godke attempts to ruin his plans.

Cast: Mohanlal, Puneeth Rajkumar

NEENGAL KETTAVALI

A widow is raped and murdered by a tourist, and the incident is witnessed by her two sons. The brothers are separated but soon come together to avenge her.

Cast: Thiagarajan, Silk Smitha, Poornima Bhagyaraj

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 HOW CAN WE SOLVE THE ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE CRISIS? BY GERRY WRIGHT

We use antibiotics to cure infectious diseases, for surgeries and organ transplants. But we've stopped discovering new ones and are at risk of losing them forever. How did we get into this situation? Gerry Wright shares what we can do about antibiotic resistance.

2 WHY DO PEOPLE FEAR THE WRONG THINGS? BY GERD GIGERENZER

There are many examples of how a common risk is presented in news articles, and they can often be misleading. So how can we better evaluate risk? Gerd Gigerenzer explores the difference between relative and absolute risk.

3 INSIDE THE KILLER WHALE MATRIARCHY BY DARREN CROFT

Each family of killer whales is able to survive thanks mainly to one member: the grandmother. These matriarchs can live over 80 years and their expertise can mean the difference between life and death for their families. Darren Croft details the lives of killer whales and the dangers facing their survival.

4 TINY SATELLITES SHOW US THE EARTH AS IT CHANGES IN NEAR-REAL-TIME BY WILL MARSHALL

Planet Labs' Will Marshall introduces his tiny satellites — no bigger than 10 by 10 by 30 centimeters — that, when launched in a cluster, provide high-res images of the entire planet, updated daily.

5 LOVE LETTERS TO STRANGERS BY HANNAH BRENCER

When Hannah Brencher felt herself bottom into depression after college, she wrote love letters and left them for strangers to find. Now a global initiative, The World Needs More Love Letters rushes handwritten letters to those in need of a boost.

FIT BIT

SHANMUKHI MUDRA

In Sanskrit, 'shan' means 'six', 'mukhi' means 'face' or 'gate' and 'mudra' means 'gesture', 'mark' or 'seal'. It is a yogic hand gesture that represents closing the six gates of perception — the eyes, ears, nose and mouth. Mudras are symbolic, ritualistic gestures used in yoga, Buddhism and Hinduism. The senses are turned inwards and the rhythmic breathing keeps the mind from wandering. It brings a feeling of inner peace and one hears the divine voice of his self within. It is an ultimate way to the experience of the spiritual journey.

STEPS

- Sit in Padmasana. Keep your spine erect and your head level.
- Raise your hands to the face. Lift your elbows to the level of the shoulders; place the thumbs in the ear-holes to cut off external sounds. You can also keep the thumbs on the tragus over the ear.
- Close your eyelids, but turn the eyes up. Place the index and middle fingers on the closed lids so that the first two phalanges only press the entire eyeball.
- Do not press the cornea. Pull the eye-lids down with the middle finger. Push the upper part of the eyelids, below the eyebrow, upwards with the index fingers. Gently press the eyes at both the corners.
- Now maintain equal pressure on the ears and the eyes.
- With the tips of the ring fingers press both nostrils. The nasal passages are thus narrowed for slow, deep, steady, rhythmic and subtle breathing.
- Place your little fingers on the upper lip where they can check the rhythmic flow of the breath.

BENEFITS

- It calms the mind. Feeling of motion sickness or vertigo is reduced through nervous relaxation.
- Prevents/reduces anxiety, anger and irritation.
- Relaxes the eyes and facial nerves.
- Creates a state of Pratyahara (withdrawal of energy from the senses) that promotes a meditative state.
- Beneficial for children as the power of thinking and memory becomes strong.
- Relaxes the nervous system improving numerous motor responses.

LIMITATIONS

- Beginners should not attempt.
- If you have glaucoma, avoid this.
- Don't press or push the eyes and ears too hard.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

REGIONAL

MEKA SURI (Telugu)

The story revolves around Meka Suri, a butcher, who gets married to his love, Rani. However, when Rani gets brutally murdered by a group of people, Meka Suri decides to avenge her death with the help of Naxalites.

Cast: Abhinay, Naresh Byreddy, Sharat Kumar

Watch on: Zee 5

Registration: ₹ 99 per month

ODEYA (Kannada)

Gajendra owns a transport company and also takes care of local residents, citizens and poor people with utmost care and affection. He and his four brothers lead a happy life helping the needy and protecting them from anti-social elements.

Cast: Darshan, Sanah Thimmayyah, Yashas Surya

Watch on: Amazon Prime

Registration: ₹ 129 per month

LUCIFER (Malayalam)

When the leader of a ruling party dies, there is a power struggle to fill his shoes. His adopted son, the mysterious Stephen, steps in and faces challenges in all spheres of life.

Cast: Mohanlal, Prithviraj Sukumaran, Manju Warrier, Sanja Iyappan

Watch on: Amazon Prime

Registration: ₹ 129 per month

SHIVAJI SURATKAL (Kannada)

Shivaji, a policeman, sets out to investigate a high-profile murder of a minister's son. However, while pursuing the leads, he must also deal with his own wife's death.

Cast: Ramesh Aravind, Radhika Narayan, Aarohi Narayan, Vinay Gowda

Watch on: Zee 5

Registration: ₹ 99 per month

BHARAATE (Kannada)

When Jagan meets Radha, it is love at first sight for him. But finding his happily-ever-after is harder than it seems.

Cast: Sriimurali, Sreeleela, P Ravi Shankar

Watch on: Amazon Prime

Registration: ₹ 129 per month

MEHENDI CIRCUS (Tamil)

A music shop owner falls in love with a girl from a circus troupe that visits his village, but caste and class stand in the way.

Cast: Shweta Tripathi, Madhampaty Rangaraj, Vela Ramamoor

Watch on: Netflix

Registration: ₹ 199 per month

CHOKED (Hindi)

A bank employee who is struggling to pay the bills finds a secret source of seemingly unlimited cash in her home.

Cast: Saiyami Kher, Roshan Mathew, Rajshri Deshpande, Amruta Subhash

Watch on: Netflix

Registration: ₹ 199 per month

ENGLISH/ FOREIGN

DOCTOR STRANGE (English)

In an accident, Stephen Strange, a famous neurosurgeon, loses the ability to use his hands. He goes to visit the mysterious Ancient One to heal himself and becomes a great sorcerer under her tutelage.

Cast: Benedict Cumberbatch, Rachel McAdams, Chiwetel Ejiofor

Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

Registration: ₹ 399 per year

CHEMICAL HEARTS (English)

A high school senior falls in love with a new transfer student who hides a heartbreaking secret.

Cast: Lili Reinhart, Austin Abrams, Sarah Jones, Adhir Kalyan

Watch on: Amazon Prime

Registration: ₹ 129 per month

OKJA (Japanese)

For 10 idyllic years, young Mija has been caretaker and constant companion to Okja — a massive animal and an even bigger friend — at her home in the mountains of South Korea. But that changes when family-owned, multinational conglomerate Mirando Corporation takes Okja for themselves and transports her to New York, where an image-obsessed and self-promoting CEO has big plans for Mija's dearest friend. With no particular plan but single-minded in intent, Mija sets out on a rescue mission.

Cast: Ahn Seo-hyun, Tilda Swinton, Jake Gyllenhaal, Byun Hee-bong, Paul Dano

Watch on: Netflix

Registration: ₹ 199 per month

ONE AND ONLY IVAN (English)

A gorilla named Ivan tries to piece together his past with the help of an elephant named Stella as they hatch a plan to escape from captivity.

Cast: Angelina Jolie, Bryan Cranston, Sam Rockwell, Brooklyn Prince

Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

Registration: ₹ 399 per year

IT'S RAINING CLOUD KITCHENS

Missing restaurant food? Cloud kitchens take centre stage during the pandemic, offering an array of dishes, from chicken curry to churros

Cloud kitchens, also known as dark kitchens or ghost kitchens, are commercial facilities purpose-built to produce food for delivery, as was done by FreshMenu, Faaso's, Behrouz Biryani and Khichdi Experiment by Ola. They have the advantages of lower rents and minimal overheads, and many restaurants in Bengaluru, which are witnessing reduced dine-in customers now, are reinventing their spare kitchen capacity to launch pocket-friendly, delivery-only brands offering global cuisines.

Take, for instance, Hakka-Chow, the newest baby on the block from Lounge Hospitality, which has given us the Sanchez and Sriracha restaurants. Helmed by culinary director, chef Vikas Seth, it showcases Asian market-style dishes incorporating fresh and local ingredients with house-made sauces. They plan to introduce three more home-delivery brands - Bangalore Pizza Company, Mad Mex and Garam Masala.



ASLAM GAFOOR

That Curry Place, the brainchild of the team behind 1Q1, has an elaborate menu of curries from around the world. Partner Anirudh Kheny says the menu, comprising curries from Southeast Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and other countries, will change regularly and the food will be delivered packed in compartmentalised boxes accompanied with staples and condiments.

Playvor Co., a collaboration between URU and Maratt, has launched four cloud kitchens to provide a global experience to diners. While Hand-made dishes out Italian pizzas and pasta with premium ingredients,



Representational picture

Roohi serves traditional North Indian cuisine with mix and match combos, and The Great Wok pan-Asian food focuses on starter dishes. Also on offer will be Charlie Who? gourmet sundaes.

Asian kitchen Ginger Tiger is now a delivery-only brand serving stir-fry meal bowls which you can personalise. The menu also has an a-la-carte selection of appetisers, curries, staples and all-in-one meal boxes containing the main course, appetiser, salad and dessert.

Patrons of the erstwhile Windsor Pub need not despair since their old gastropub favourites will now be served by Windsor Food Factory, led by chef Rohan Belliappa. The nostalgia-laced, delivery-only menu will include Pandi Fry, Chicken Bafat, Andhra Chilly Chicken, Kadai Paneer, and more. If you are craving for Hyderabad dum biryanis, then you can consider Biryani 2 Home, which delivers mutton, chicken and vegetarian biryanis, Mughlai char-grilled kebabs, and combo biryani packs with kebabs, dessert and soft beverages.

Meanwhile, BLR Ventures is tantalising our taste buds with

two delivery-only brands. My Bowl serves Indian, Continental and Chinese comfort meals in a bowl and our pick is the Dhaba Chicken Curry Rice Bowl. Their other brand is Churroz, serving Spanish golden-fried pastries and we must make a special mention of the Oreo Chocolate Churros stuffed with dark chocolate, garnished with Oreo dust.

Ministry Of Curries by Desmonds is set to serve curries from around the world, packaged and delivered in glass jars that will keep the food hot and make it convenient to eat. Go for Pandi Curry, Vegetable Stew with Idiyappam or Pork Vindaloo with Sanna.

Juzi has a subscription service of fresh fruit bowls delivered daily to your doorstep via a cold chain. The fruits come in various options for skin care, hair care, weight loss, energiser and more. Another new arrival will be The Indian Canteen - Streatery inspired from Indian streets. Think samosas, kachoris, Desi Butter Chicken Burrito, Aam Panna, Desi Lassi and Kala Khatta Sherbet. You can find more details for these brands on their social media handles and food delivery apps. Bon appétit!

(The writer is a Bengaluru-based hospitality professional, food lover and travel enthusiast)



Kidding around

Writer Anuja Chauhan celebrated the 55th birthday of her husband, Niret Alva, with a garden picnic. Her recent Instagram post shows her rocking a multicoloured clown's wig as she feigns a shocked expression while posing with her daughter, who dons a war helmet of sorts.



Biker girl

Whoever thought diamonds are a girl's best friend hasn't met Samyuktha Hegde. The actor took to Instagram to show off her real best: a heavy duty bike. The short video shows a snippet of the actor's 300km ride from Bengaluru to Chikmagalur. Because, why should boys have all the fun?



• Vidya Iyengar

Sometime in 2015-16, theatre artiste and filmmaker Abhishek Iyengar came across a woman in Peenya who was standing with a large suitcase at a bus stand. "Something about her made me stop my vehicle. I was curious about the image of a mill worker standing at mid-day with a suitcase in hand. That image stayed with me," says Iyengar. This forms the central theme of his short film, *Koru*, which was screened at the Bangalore International Short Film Festival. The title is derived from a

word in Maori (tribal language in New Zealand) that means circle of life.

The story, which has only two major characters, revolves around a couple involved in domestic abuse, which later prompts the woman to leave home for her long-time lover. "In my mind, I had pictured a worker in a field or mill, which is where many in the Peenya area work. For a woman from a lower-middle class family, walking out of her marriage to go back to a lover is quite a decision, something that I thought was challenging and interesting," he says about the film set in the late 1990s.

Iyengar had actually written it in the format of a play. But when Karthik Rao (the director of the film) read it, he wanted to convert it into a film. "He worked on the screenplay and we found that in the form of a film there were a lot more nuances that needed to be added. For instance, more day-to-day scenes had to be added which were originally not part of the play. Characters needed to be carved out in detail and a lot of piecing together had to be done," says Iyengar about the 22-minute film.

The roles are played by actor Sonu Gowda and Suraj Kiran. The movie was shot in the early part of 2019, with the rest of the

year spent in completing the post-production. "There was also this constant need in a film to be realistic. We need to closely look into the make-up and costumes. Sometimes you don't know how much is too much," he says.



For a woman from a lower-middle class family, walking out of her marriage to go back to a lover is quite a decision, it's something that I thought was challenging and interesting

—Abhishek Iyengar
Writer-director



Receiving bad news



LOVEOLOGY
Mahesh Natarajan

Imagine this: You are sitting down post dinner on your couch, watching your favourite Korean soap or the latest MasterChef or whatever else on the living room TV, just relaxing in the pleasant daze of a lovely dinner. Your partner is sprawled out on another couch. Normally, you would just spend the hour chilling, making small talk or sharing

commentary about the show you are both watching till it is time to sleep. Suddenly, you notice your partner tentatively palpate some part in their body, looking worried. You see your partner do it over and over again, and you recognise that there is something happening there that is bothering them about their health they have not shared with you as yet.

What would you do? Would you just watch from your couch and wait for them to tell you what is going on, or would you sidle up to them, and try to look for yourself



what it was that seemed to be bugging them? Would you gently try to get your partner to talk to you, or would you call out harshly and ask, "Hey! Stop messing with your body like that! Is there some problem?" or would you look at them sternly, till they blurt out whatever was troubling them? And then, if they confess to whatever was worrying them, would you scoff at it, dismissing it as yet another hypochondriacal episode, scold them for playing doctor, or get worried with them and cajole them to meet a medical professional? Or, would you listen to them and connect with them about their worry, reassuring them that you are there for them, that you want to help, and that you trust

they will tell you what they need?

When we suspect something might be an issue with our health or our partner's, our reaction can range from willful denial, to fearful action, to wailing inaction, to sniffling surrender and anywhere else within that matrix of fearfulness and action orientation. We might be fully in child mode, wanting our partner to be parent, loving or authoritative, or we might be in full-on adult mode, cold, methodical and systematic. The more serious the concern, the more intense the reaction. Sometimes, for what we see as a common thing, we might react quite casually, but if we catch a lump or something else that seems more concerning, we might be totally

different.

It is not easy to know how to show love and care in these situations when nothing has been really diagnosed, especially when we think we might react very differently in the same situation and even see the partner's reaction as silly, childish, stubborn or unnecessarily dramatic.

The question to ask ourselves is simply this: Should we react the way we would, or the way our partner would like us to? Can we love the way the partner needs us to at the time, or are we stuck in our own ways?

To give what is needed is often so much richer than to give what we can.

(The writer is a counsellor with InnerSight)

PURSE AND THE PANDEMIC



OPEN SPACE
Gulnaar Mirza
Associate Editor

Sale season has come around again, and malls and stores are literally screaming from the hoardings - clothes, gadgets, appliances, home decor, all on discount. Tempting, teasing, seducing, but it's no go. You resolutely turn away from the blandishments, and continue on your way.

This is the year of the corona curse, and there's precious little in the purse. Even window shopping can be counted as an indulgence. And if triumphing over these temptations is not enough, there are mailers and vouchers in your inbox, and messages pop up about deals and offers. Some are peppered with dollar-eyed emojis, for effect.

Then there are the holiday clubs and cruises, with tantalising visuals of seas and beaches and mountains, jumping out of your mailbox. But sigh!, holidays are now history, no planning, booking, packing in the near future.

For where's the loot, the bucks, the greenbacks (pink, and multi colours in our case), the grease that keeps the economy oiled and running? Last year this time, sales would have prompted a consumerist splurge, but today malls echo with emptiness, the mall rats having long deserted them. And the rest have become penny-wise.

Six months into the pan-

demie, and the psyche of the average Joe and Janaki have undergone a sea change. Shrinking incomes and insecurity have turned them into scrappers and savers, as they keep their purse strings firmly tied.

Quite unconsciously, we are adopting the lifestyle of our parents, who put aside every spare rupee for that distant rainy day. Theirs was a spartan outlook: spend on good food and education, shopping was restricted to festivals and birthdays, holidays in aji mane, and everything else was luxury. We are pretty close to this too, as we turn Scrooge-like to survive the pandemic. Cutting back and doing without have acquired the status of virtue, and don't be surprised to find a little pot of cash tucked away in a dark corner of kitchens, for the day when we are called upon to prove our *atma nirbharta*.

Fear remains the overriding factor, the fear of loss - of jobs, salaries, savings, homes, health. As one colleague put it aptly, this is a pandemic of fear. No doubt it's psychologists who are going to have a field day sometime in the future, but that's if we can afford them.

But in the midst of all this gloom-doom, there are our reckless Scarlets who dismiss our mousy fears. Tomorrow is another day, they say airily, *kal kisne dekha hai...* Let's shop, party and dance all night. Hasn't Covid taught you to grab life with both hands and live for today, the here and now? Maybe there is some truth in that too.

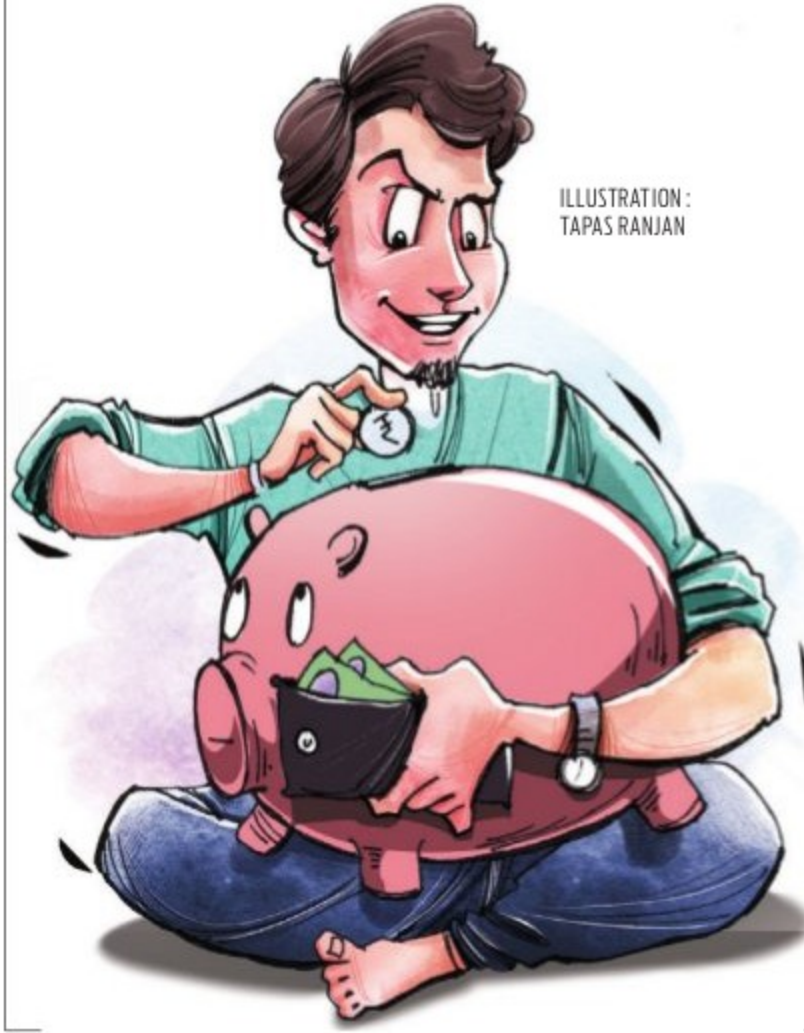
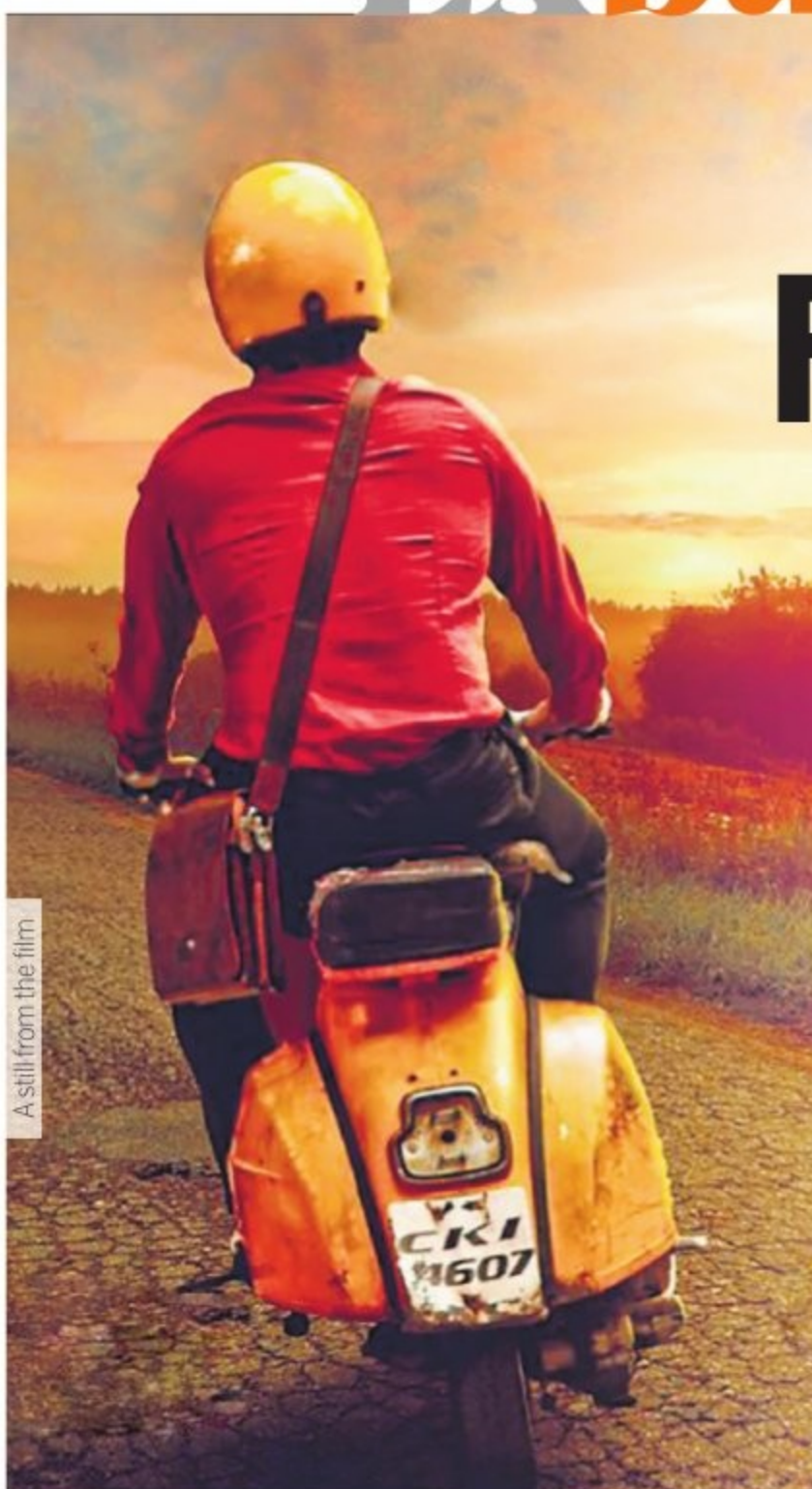


ILLUSTRATION:
TAPAS RANJAN

TOPPERS

SOUNDARYA SCHOOL, HESARGHATTA MAIN ROAD (SSLC)

Nithya Shree H L 99.68 %	Pranav Koushik N 99.36 %	Sindhu 99.36 %	Meenakshi 99.04 %
Pooja 98.88	Pranav V 97.92%	Chithra P 97.76 %	Bharath S R 97.60 %



A still from the film

'LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL' FOR PRUTHVI AMBAAR

Director H Lohith turns producer for the film made by Friday Films in association with Silver Train International; directed by Arunkumar M and Sabu Aloysius, it will go on floors in September



Pruthvi Ambaar

CE Features

Pruthvi Ambaar, who rose to popularity with *Dia*, has signed his fourth project in a row. He already has in his kitty *For Reg* directed by Naveen Dwarakanath, a yet-to-be-titled project with Darshan Apoorva, and K M Shashdhar's directorial debut, *Sugarless*. His next film will be *Life is Beautiful*, which titled was launched by actor Dhananjay on Monday, along with the film's poster. Lohith H, the director of *Mummy - Save Me* and *Devaki* is making his debut as a producer and the film will be made under the banner of Friday Films in association with Silver Train International. The film, produced by Kishore Narasimhaiah, will have

two directors — Arunkumar M and Sabu Aloysius — helming the project. The duo comes with 20 years of experience in the advertising industry. Speaking about his debut production venture, Lohith says, "Having tried my hands at direction, I have also decided to do my bit by making movies which are going to be a mix of good content laced with entertainment to suit the taste of the audience. The title, *Life is Beautiful*, is so true and inspiring, I felt there cannot be a better line to make anyone fall in love with life, which perfectly aligns with the theme of life and its beauty. Hence we decided to go with it." The team is currently getting prepared to begin shooting in September, and before that, they will finalise the technical crew as well the cast.



DEEP DIVE INTO DC FANDOME

CE Features

The much-awaited virtual convention by DC Comics and Warner Bros, called DC Fandome, took place on Saturday. New trailers and announcements for many of DC's upcoming films were launched as part of the event. New series and video games were also announced.

A new trailer for the Zack Snyder version of the *Justice League*, known as the Snyder Cut, was released. Set to Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah, the trailer featured many scenes that were not part of the 2017 film. Though a release date was not announced, it is confirmed that the new Justice League will be aired as a four-part hour-long mini series.

The first trailer of Matt Reeves' *The Batman*, starring Robert Pattinson as the caped crusader, was dropped in the Fandome. The trailer also featured Zoe Kravitz as Catwoman and Jeffrey Wright as James Gordon. A new trailer for Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman 1984 showed Kristen Wiig in her villainous Cheetah avatar for the first time. It also featured Chris Pine's return as Steve Trevor.

We were also introduced to the roster of villains from James Gunn's *The Suicide*

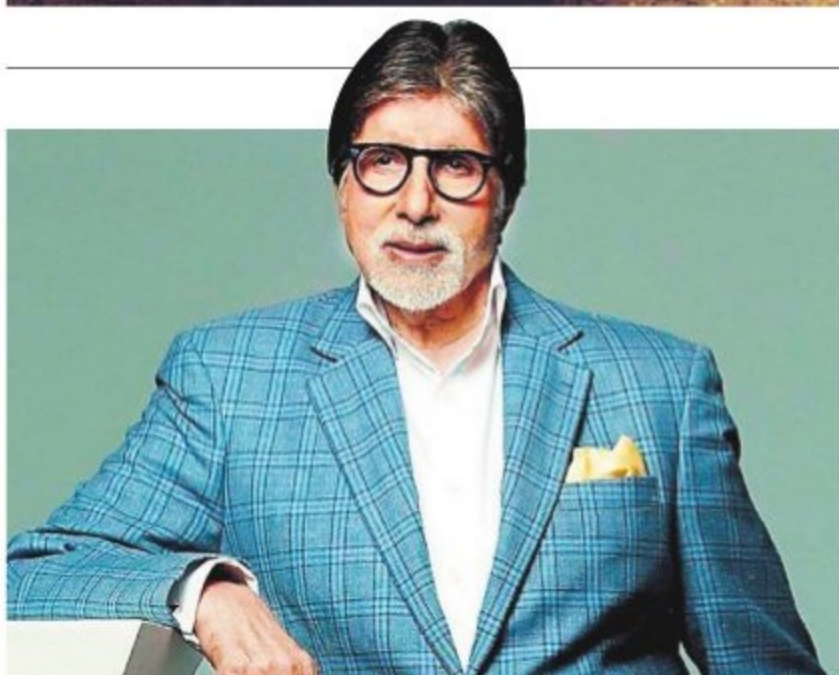
Squad with a teaser — Idris Elba plays Bloodsport, John Cena is Peacemaker, Nathan Fillion is TDK, Pete Davidson is Blackguard, and Michael Rooker is Savant. Margot Robbie, Viola Davis, Jai Courtney, and Joel Kinnaman reprise their roles from the previous film as Harley Quinn, Amanda Waller, Captain Boomerang, and Rick Flag, respectively.

Fans got to see the first look of the new Flash costume for the upcoming film, *The Flash*, which has Ezra Miller reprising the titular role. The film will be a time-travel story and previous reports indicated that Ben Affleck and Michael Keaton will be playing their versions of Batman in this film.

A concept video of Dwayne Johnson as Black Adam was revealed, and Johnson also teased how certain characters from the Justice Society of America such as Hawkman, Doctor Fate, Cyclone, and Atom Smasher will be incorporated into the film.

It was also confirmed that Neil Gaiman's Sandman series will be dropping soon on Netflix. The shoot of the series was earlier hindered by the pandemic.

There was an update on the sequel to the Shazam! film as well. It has been titled Shazam! *Fury of the Gods*.



Amitabh Bachchan shoots for Kaun Banega Crorepati 12 after recovering from COVID-19

Sarkari... is a film that took us from Keradi to Delhi: Rishab Shetty

CE Features

It's been two years since director Rishab Shetty's last directorial, *Sarkari Hi. Pra. Shaale, Kasaragodu, Koduge: Ramanna Rai* was released. The movie came out on August 24, and the director and the entire team remain grateful for the love showered on this film even today. It talked about the imposition of Malayalam in schools in the Kasaragodu district of Kerala, which led to protests in the recent times, and the hardships faced by students due to changes in the medium of instruction forms the crux of the film, which the audience connected with to a big extent.

The film featured a host of actors Anant Nag, Ranjan, Sampath, Pramod Shetty, Saptha



Rishab Shetty

Pavoor, Mahendra, Sohan Shetty, Prakash Thuminad, Manish Heroor and others. The movie, which ran for 100 days, also won the National Film Award for Best Children's Film in 2019. "Sarkari is so special that I didn't realise it has completed two years. This is the film that took us

from Keradi to Delhi for the National Award, and the entire team to great heights, and I am grateful to all those who made this a success," says Rishab, who doesn't see an opportunity for a sequel but is planning to work around the characters. "I intend to explore the characters, especially those of Mammooty, Praveena, and Upadhyaya. This is an organic thought, and I would work out a story around it for one of my future projects," he reveals. Rishab Shetty's next directorial will be *Rudraprayag*, which will go on floors in early 2021. Meanwhile, the director, who also saw success as an actor with *Bell Bottom*, gears up to begin the shooting for his next film, *Harikathe Alla Giri Kathe*. The film, made by Sandesh Production, marks the directorial debut of Giri Krishna.



A still from the film

Khaali Peeli teaser out: Ishaan Khatter, Ananya Panday are on the run

CE Features

Ishaan Khatter and Ananya Panday are on the run in the teaser of *Khaali Peeli*. The film, directed by Maqbool Khan, is an 'edgy masala entertainer' set in Mumbai. The teaser shows Ishaan's taxi driver escaping from cops and gangsters alike, with Ananya in the back seat. The duo seems in big trouble: there's talk of a 'half murder' and a bag loaded with cash. Jaideep Ahlawat, who plays the antagonist, is missing from view.

"It's been a pleasure working with Ishaan and Ananya—two powerhouses who have given fantastic performances," Maqbool said. "Khaali Peeli is a young, edgy, mad roller-coaster ride that I hope the audiences will enjoy thoroughly."

Producer Ali Abbas Zafar added, "Khaali Peeli is a complete desi entertainer. Ishaan, Ananya's energetic chemistry and Jaideep's credibility makes this ride cooler and edgier."



Ananya Panday



Ishaan Khatter

Crime-thriller Mirzapur season 2 to stream soon

CE Features

Amazon Prime Video has announced the launch date of *Mirzapur season 2*. The crime-thriller series will return to the platform on October 23.

The second season will be led by Pankaj Tripathi, Ali

Fazal, Divyenndu, Shweta Tripathi Sharma, Rasika Dugal, Harshita Shekhar Gaur, Amit Sial, Anjum Sharma, Sheeba Chaddha, Manu Rishi Chaddha, and Rajesh Tailang. Expanding on its tale of crime and lawlessness in North India, the cast of *Mirzapur* will also include Vijay Varma, Priyanshu Painy-

uli, and Isha Talwar.

Speaking about the announcement, Aparna Purohit, Head of India Originals, Amazon Prime Video, said, "Mirzapur has truly been a game-changer title for us. The show heralded a new idiom of storytelling for Indian audiences - its characters have become a part of the popular

culture. We are certain that the riveting narrative of season 2 will leave our audiences mesmerised once again."

Series creator Puneet Krishna commented, "Seeing the excitement for season 2 for months now made each one of us deliver a performance that matches up to the scale at which the show has

now placed itself. We are thrilled to take the fans to another dynamic world of Mirzapur that they have been awaiting for a very long time."

Mirzapur is produced by Excel Media and Entertainment, and directed by Gurmmeet Singh and Mihir Desai.

Check out the announcement video for season 2 here.



A still from Mirzapur Season 2